

The IFLA/FAIFE World Report Series is unique. It is the only source based on a systematic data collection process that provides an overview of how libraries around the world are tackling barriers to freedom of access to information and freedom of expression.

This year's edition includes 84 country reports which detail the extent of Internet access in libraries worldwide and address three specific areas of concern: anti-terror legislation; freedom of information laws; and the social responsibilities of libraries such as raising awareness of HIV/AIDS and increasing women's access to information.



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IFLA/FAIFE WORLD REPORT 2005

# Libraries, National Security, Freedom of Information Laws and Social Responsibilities



IFLA/FAIFE World Report

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**Libraries, National Security,  
Freedom of Information Laws and  
Social Responsibilities**

**Editors: Susanne Seidelin  
& Stuart Hamilton**

IFLA/FAIFE 2005

World Report Series Vol V

# Libraries, National Security, Freedom of Information Laws and Social Responsibilities

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# Acknowledgements

For the first time, the IFLA/FAIFE World Report includes articles on the specific themes chosen for the report. The 2005 edition thus debates national security legislation, freedom of access to information laws and social responsibilities - issues that are also addressed in the questionnaire that form the basis of the individual country reports. The editors wish to express our gratitude to Marc Lampson, M.L.I.S and J.D., Professor Barbara Jones and Professor Al Kagan of the United States for their invaluable contributions concerning national security legislation, freedom of information laws and social responsibilities. We sincerely hope the articles will inspire debates and raise awareness of these specific challenges facing libraries around the world.

We specifically wish to thank colleagues at national library associations and national libraries for all their commitment and contributions to the report. We are fully aware that filling in the questionnaire for this year's report has required more work than in previous years - especially statistics and descriptive questions.

However, we believe that all the efforts will prove worthwhile as the information provided through the data collection process is of great relevance to the international library community as well as to others working with the provision of information.

A special thank goes to LIS student Maninder Kaur of the Royal School of Library and Information Science, Copenhagen, Denmark for all her hard work monitoring the state of intellectual freedom in some of the countries represented in this report. Her contribution is based on reports from independent and reliable human rights organisations and supplement reports from countries where local contributors could otherwise be at risk.

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en's Issue, Yan Xiangdong at the National Library of China, Barbara Schleihagen and other members of the IFLA/FAIFE Committee and Advisory Board.

As was the case of the 2003 report, Loida Garcia-Febo of Jamaica has translated the questionnaire into Spanish and Spanish contributions to this report into English. Her work has been immensely helpful and we thank her warmly for all her help and her continuing commitment to the World Report Series and FAIFE.

Once again, we wish to thank the designer of the *IFLA/FAIFE World Report Series* Per Lukman of Denmark for his cooperation and excellent work.

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June 2005

*Susanne Seidelin and Stuart Hamilton*

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# Preface

**Kay Raseroka**  
**President of IFLA**

IFLA has endorsed a new model for its operations - the three pillars: society, members and profession. The society pillar aims at strengthening the role of IFLA in advocacy. It focuses on the role and impact of libraries and information services in society. Last, but not least, it analyses contextual issues that condition and constrain the environment in which libraries operate across the world. These issues are addressed by various IFLA activities and through the work of IFLA bodies such as FAIFE. The IFLA/FAIFE World Report Series addresses selected challenges facing the international library community and the daily work of libraries throughout the world. This year, the World Report 2005 specifically debates three themes of concern: National legislation on security or anti-terrorism, laws on freedom of access to information, and library activities that address social responsibilities.

In the aftermath of the terrorist attack in New York on the 11th of September 2001, the United States adopted the USA PATRIOT ACT. In the following years we have seen how this act has affected and influenced people's lives. Since libraries and their

users are affected, "the library and information science community has responded vigorously", as Marc Lampson concludes in his article. Other countries have adopted, or intend to adopt, similar legislation. FAIFE has been given the task to report on the effects of these security or anti-terror laws on libraries and their users at IFLA Council in Oslo 2005. Hence, colleagues voice their concerns about anti-terror legislation, in this World Report.

The principles of freedom of access to information, ideas and works of imagination and freedom of expression are fundamental human rights as endorsed by the United Nations. Unhindered access to information resources is one of the key values of the library and information profession. These principles are the basis for equal participation in an inclusive knowledge and information society. National laws on freedom of access to information therefore safeguard public access to information created and held by government and public officials. In her article, Barbara Jones states, "Freedom of information legislation is a key component in the global flow of information and

the provision of excellent library service. It serves as a crucial counterbalance to national security legislation and related attempts to restrict the flow of information". Many of the countries responding to this year's World Report have passed, or are about to pass, freedom of information legislation and the country reports contained herein are testament to this.

Library activities in the area of social responsibilities address and take a stand on issues of general concern for humanity, at various levels of the individual, local community, in our countries, and the world. The HIV/AIDS pandemic and women's literacy are examples that demand specific attention and professional activities that address these as social responsibilities. For the first time, we have an overview on how libraries address these important issues and how they cooperate with organisations and individuals in their communities to raise awareness on the HIV/AIDS pandemic and offer equal access to information sources for members of their communities, inclusive of those unable to read. As Al Kagan says in his article, "Libraries can indeed become community centres

where people, including poor people, immigrants, and diverse populations of all kinds find materials and participate in local culture and civic affairs to actualise their potentials and develop their communities."

The reports of the 84 contributing countries also follow up on the World Report Series 2003 on topics such intellectual freedom, Internet accessibility in libraries, filtering and the implementation of IFLA policies. To give context to this information, each country report includes an estimate of the number of public and research libraries in each country. Thus, for the first time, the World Report series provides an idea of work that is being done in these areas by various member countries.

As this year's report shows, while we continue to move down the long road towards access to information for everyone, often in new and exciting ways, there remains plenty of work for us to facilitate the emergence of an inclusive knowledge society for our communities and humanity.

# Introduction

**Susanne Seidelin & Stuart Hamilton**

*Everyone has the right to freedom of expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.*

Article 19 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights

This is the third time that IFLA/FAIFE is publishing a World Report on the state of intellectual freedom and libraries worldwide. The World Report Series is unique in the sense that it is the only source that, based on a systematic data collection process, provides an overview of how libraries around the world are addressing intellectual freedom and barriers to freedom of access to information and freedom of expression. This year's report covers 84 countries from all over the world.

By discussing some of the many challenges facing the international library community and the daily work of libraries, the report seeks to provide an answer to the question: to what extent can libraries ensure that

their users may “seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers”? To answer this question, this year's report debates professional values and the implementation of policies, as well as professional attitudes and practices concerning users' access to information resources in libraries. The report examines the many barriers to accessing information, such as censorship on political, social, religious, moral, ethical or other grounds, as well as the economic barriers that libraries and their users are confronted with. More importantly, the report shows us how often these problems occur among the countries of the international library community and how they might be tackled. These themes were also addressed in the World Report 2003 and will be followed up in subsequent reports.

This year the World Report introduces three additional themes. Anti-terror legislation is discussed in a paper by Marc Lampson that details the USA PATRIOT Act's affects on US libraries after the terrorist attacks of 11<sup>th</sup> of September 2001. Data on national



anti-terror legislation has also been included in the individual country reports. The second theme is discussed in a paper by Barbara Jones which concerns freedom of information laws that ensure the right of citizens to access information created and held by government and public officials. Finally, Al Kagan introduces the third theme which debates various aspects of the social responsibilities of libraries. It is a huge topic, which concerns the role and impact of libraries and information services in society and how they can engage in the issues and challenges that their local communities face. The country reports specifically address social responsibilities in terms of how libraries raise awareness of HIV/AIDS and how libraries engage in women's literacy issues.

As has now become standard for the World Report Series, FAIFE shall continue to systematically follow up on general as well as specific themes debated in each World Report volume. Other FAIFE projects and activities will also make use of the results of the data collection process and information provided for the report. Thus data regarding the extent and costs of Internet accessibility in libraries, as

well as the use of filtering software will provide a very helpful input to the development of IFLA/UNESCO Internet Guidelines - a project that FAIFE is engaged in 2005/2006. Likewise, data on HIV/AIDS awareness and women's literacy will provide the background for FAIFE programmes at the IFLA Congress in Seoul 2006 and Durban 2007 and for other future projects.

IFLA has currently members in 150 countries around the world. The first edition of the World Report covered 46 of these countries, in the 2003 report 88 countries were included, and this year 84. In total the three editions have covered 111 different countries. It is our ambition that the IFLA/FAIFE World Report will cover all of the IFLA membership countries and become a key guide to the issues confronting libraries in providing free and unhampered access to information for their users.

More detailed information about each volume of the IFLA/FAIFE World Series can be found in the appendixes. It is our hope that this year's World Report will become an inspiration for our colleagues and others concerned about libraries and intellectual freedom issues.

# Libraries, Liberty, and the USA PATRIOT Act

**Marc Lampson**

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University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, USA.

## Note from the editors:

*Marc Lampson's paper for this year's World Report is a comprehensive look at the USA PATRIOT ACT and its affects on libraries in the US since September 11<sup>th</sup> 2001. The effects of anti-terrorism legislation on freedom of expression are one of the 2005 World Report's areas of special focus, and Marc Lampson's description of the situation facing libraries in the US is one that will make familiar reading to some of the contributors to this year's report. As further detailed in the country reports and the Analysis section, nearly four years after the terrorist attacks in New York it is not only US librarians who are worried about the future of freedom of expression and freedom of access to information in libraries. Contributors from Uganda and Germany show that post-September 11<sup>th</sup> legislation in their countries has put worries into the minds of the library community, while librarians in Canada, Japan and the Philippines are worried about what effects future legislation might have on libraries. Most disturbingly, the country report from the Netherlands shows us that the PATRIOT Act model is ripe for export, and Dutch librarians are having to get organized to fight newly proposed legislation that would open up library users' records to law enforcement agencies in much the same way as in the US. Marc Lampson's paper shows us how this situation started, and should be read carefully by anyone with an interest in this disturbing subject.*

## Introduction

Libraries and liberty have had a long-standing affinity - one going back to the Latin roots of each word and extending forward into the social movements

of our time that have often adopted the slogan that "the truth shall set us free." But while libraries lead some to the truth, others have been led to believe that in the name of liberty, it is not the patron but the patron's record that should be freed - for government

inspection. Section 215 of the USA PATRIOT Act (“the Act”), enacted by the United States Congress in October 2001, permits U.S. government agents to get library patron records from the library and prohibits library personnel from saying anything about it to anyone. But the Act’s provisions are only the latest signs of Big Brother’s abiding interest in your reading list.

Section 215, its context, content, impact, and its ongoing opposition and possible demise are briefly discussed below, as well as a brief history of such snooping in the United States. Today, especially if you are a “foreign national” in the United States, the websites that you visit or books that you read - or borrow or browse at the library - rather than setting you free, may well be setting you up.

### Context

While the context in which the USA PATRIOT Act was enacted does not excuse its excesses, the context helps explain the Act’s content. The Act was hastily enacted by the United States Congress in the weeks following the hijacking of four commercial jets and the deliberate crashing of two of those jets into the World Trade Center’s Twin Towers in New York and one of them into the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., on September 11, 2001. The acronym, USA PATRIOT Act, stands for “Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act of 2001,” Pub. L. No. 107-56. It is likely that it took longer to dream up the title and the acronym than it took most members of Congress to decide to vote for it.

The Act itself, once codified, could not be found as a whole in the United States Code but only in pieces throughout the code because the Act was a hodge-podge of amendments to current statutes. Many sections of the Act caused, and continue to cause concern among groups involved with civil liberties, civil rights, immigrant rights, Internet freedom, and other arenas. While it is difficult to summarize all of the Act’s provisions, attorney Nancy Chang focused attention on three areas:

First, the act grants the executive branch unprecedented, and largely unchecked, surveillance powers, including the enhanced ability to track e-mail and Internet usage, conduct sneak-and-peek searches, obtain sensitive personal records from third parties, monitor financial transactions, and conduct nationwide roving wiretaps. Second, the act permits law enforcement agencies to circumvent the Fourth Amendment’s [of the United States Constitution] requirement of probable cause when conducting wiretaps and searches for a criminal investigation as long as the investigation can be described as having as ‘a significant purpose’ the gathering of foreign intelligence. Third, the act allows for the sharing of information between criminal and intelligence agencies, including grand jury information, and thereby opens the door to a resurgence of domestic spying by the CIA.<sup>1</sup>

But those various concerns are largely beyond the scope of this short article though many of the references listed in the notes will lead interested readers to some of the vast literature that the Act has spawned.<sup>2</sup>

The section of the Act that has caused most concern among librarians and information professionals is Section 215, which does not mention libraries or information centers explicitly, but has been read to include such entities in the broad reach of the access to records allowed in that section of the Act.

## Content

Section 215 of the Act amends the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA), specifically 50 U.S.C. § 1861. While there are innumerable commentaries about the Act and this section in particular, none of them quote or even often cite the statute directly. To remedy this, the section appears in its entirety in the notes, although the next three paragraphs provide a summary.<sup>3</sup>

Section 215 allows the Federal Bureau of Investigation or a designee to apply to a court for an order forcing the holder of particular “tangible things,” including books, records, papers, and documents, to turn over those things to the FBI. The order to turn over the documents can be based upon an investigation of someone who is “not . . . a United States person” or, if the investigation is concerning a United States person, the investigation cannot be conducted “solely upon the basis of activities protected by the first amendment of the Constitution.” In other words, the “United States person” who is potentially the target of such an investigatory order should not be investigated “solely” on the basis of that person exercising his rights under the first amendment - typically the right to free speech. Targets, therefore, of these orders can be either “foreign nationals” or United States citizens.

The application for the order to produce these tangible things must be made either to a court established under the FISA Act or to specifically designated federal court magistrates. An order can be issued “ex parte,” meaning without notice to anyone who might oppose the motion, and the resulting order itself is forbidden from stating that it is issued for purposes of an investigation under this section of the Act. Section 215’s final section prohibits the recipient of such an order to produce tangible things from revealing “to any other person” that the FBI has sought or obtained tangible things under the provisions of Section 215.

The concerns raised by librarians and information professionals should therefore be readily apparent. The “tangible things” contemplated under the Act include records, such as circulations records, but also Internet usage logs. Further, the patrons potentially targeted by such orders can include anyone. Additionally, the order can be obtained “ex parte,” meaning it can be obtained without hearing from any one who might oppose the order. And finally, and perhaps most alarmingly, there is a gag order. The issuing court cannot state in the order that the order is pursuant to a section 215 investigation and the recipient of the order - a librarian or other personnel in an information center - cannot reveal to “any other person” that such an order was presented or that records were produced in response to such an order.

The executive branch has sought to minimize the threat to civil liberties raised by the Act, and Section 215 particularly, despite the widespread alarm voiced by librarians, information professionals, civil liberties organizations, and attorneys since enactment.



The executive has maintained that the Section has not been used, or has been used minimally, or adds little to powers already possessed by the government. Whether the Act, and Section 215 particularly, has in fact been used is difficult to tell given the Section's mandatory gag order - but information professionals and others have raised concern over not merely the implementation of the Act, but the chilling effect of the Act's provisions regardless of whether orders are issued and records are produced.

### **Impact**

Empirical data on the impact and possible chilling effect of the Act have slowly begun to emerge. The Library Research Center at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, directed by Leigh S. Estabrook, recently released the results of a 2002 survey concerning the Act's impact.<sup>4</sup> The Center sent surveys to the directors of 1,505 of the 5,094 public libraries in the United States serving populations greater than 5,000 people. The Center received responses from 906 libraries, or 60.2% of the libraries sampled. Based on this response rate, the report about the survey provided estimates concerning the 5,094 public libraries that were the focus of the study based on the 906 responses.

Staff members at 225 of those libraries said that they had refused to cooperate with law enforcement requests for voluntarily providing information about patrons' reading habits and Internet preferences, while staff at 219 libraries stated that they had cooperated with such requests. The survey asked 28 questions concerning attitudes and actions pertaining to requests for patron records and other patron infor-

mation in the year following enactment of the Act. The survey indicated that in that year federal and local law enforcement officials had visited at least 545 of the public libraries surveyed to ask for patron records. This number was 10.7% of the entire "population" of public libraries serving communities of over 5,000 people. The 545 libraries reporting visits from law enforcement personnel, however, represented a significant decline from the 703 libraries that had reported similar visits the year before September 11, 2001. Explanation this decline, however, was problematic because the Act prohibits recipients of court orders under the Act from revealing they have been recipients. One survey question asked whether the survey respondent had not answered certain questions in the survey "because you believe you are legally prohibited from doing so?" Only 2.6% answered "yes," they had declined to answer certain questions for this reason.

Regarding these secrecy mandates, nearly 60 per cent of the survey respondents indicated they thought the secrecy provisions were an abridgment of freedom of speech under the first amendment of the United States Constitution.

This response reflects the ongoing opposition to the Act, and its provisions impacting libraries, expressed by the American Library Association and a wide range of other groups.

### **Ongoing Opposition**

In response to the Act and other developments in the United States since 2001, the American Library Association Council in January 2002 passed a Resolution Reaffirming the Principles of Intellectual Freedom in

the Aftermath of Terrorist Attacks. That resolution encourages “libraries and their staff to protect the privacy and confidentiality of the people’s lawful use of the library, its equipment, and its resources.”<sup>5</sup>

This resolution is but a small part of the overall response by the ALA. An entire portion of the ALA’s Office of Intellectual Freedom’s website is dedicated to education and advocacy regarding the excesses of the Act.<sup>6</sup>

The opposition has included an online petition campaign sponsored by The Campaign for Reader Privacy, a joint initiative of the American Booksellers Association, the American Library Association, the Association of American Publishers, and the PEN American Center.<sup>7</sup>

In addition to the groups named in the prior paragraph, other advocacy and rights groups have organized informational and action campaigns against the Act. These include the American Civil Liberties Union,<sup>8</sup> the Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC)<sup>9</sup> (including both litigation<sup>10</sup> and advocacy<sup>11</sup>), the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF),<sup>12</sup> and the Center for Democracy and Technology.<sup>13</sup>

Opposition has also taken the form of alternative legislation, in a sort of war of the acronyms, these include the Freedom to Read Act and the Security and Freedom Ensured Act (SAFE). The Freedom to Read Act would require the FBI to show some type of “reasonable cause” if the FBI seeks a FISA court order to investigate library patrons and bookstore customers. This “reasonable cause” standard is considered an improvement over what Section 215 currently requires: a

claim only that the investigation is “to protect against international terrorism or clandestine intelligence activities.” The SAFE Act would reinstate the privacy protections for library users that ALA’s President Brey-Casiano referenced and would place limits on roving wiretaps and sneak-and-peek searches.

These library record privacy protections, particularly in the individual states, have been in existence for some time though some came about after relatively recent episodes of governmental intrusion into library privacy in the United States. The most prominent, recent example was the FBI’s “Library Awareness Program” that came to light in the mid-1980’s and involved investigations by the FBI at academic libraries. During that era, FBI agents would approach public service desks and inquire, usually of students working at those desks, about library use by “suspicious looking foreigners.”<sup>14</sup> Inquiries also sometimes included requests for library circulation records. When the ALA’s Intellectual Freedom Committee and the Office for Intellectual Freedom issued press releases protesting this activity, the FBI eventually confirmed that such a program existed. From 1987 to 1990 the ALA and others made various efforts to stop the practice.

In the fall of 1989, through the Freedom of Information Act, the ALA obtained documents from the FBI showing that 266 individuals had been identified as subjects of FBI “index checks.” Each of these 266 people had in some way criticized the Library Awareness Program.<sup>15</sup> Early in 1990 the ALA wrote the first President George Bush and then FBI director William Sessions, as well as congressional committees, urging that the Library Awareness Program be discontinued.

To date, the FBI has never publicly abandoned the Library Awareness Program.<sup>16</sup> Therefore, the FBI may well be still carrying out the program, perhaps under the authority of the USA PATRIOT Act, and perhaps not.

But even the program in the 1980s was not new. In 1970 the Internal Revenue Service requested circulation records from several libraries. In 1971 the ALA went on record opposing the use of grand juries to intimidate anti-Vietnam War and civil rights activists, fearing that such jury procedures could force librarians into the position of being informants regarding circulation records or patrons' reading habits.<sup>17</sup>

In contrast to its well-documented role in championing intellectual freedom and library privacy over the past half-century, the ALA's role in the first half of the twentieth century was more equivocal. During World War I, various Congressional Acts enforced restrictions on information distribution, through libraries and elsewhere, and military authorities encouraged librarians' assistance in patron surveillance.<sup>18</sup> The library community apparently voiced no opposition, publicly or privately, to these measures.<sup>19</sup> Similar measures occurred during World War II with similar silence or complicity. But in the period after World War II, in the heyday of the Cold War and McCarthyism, the ALA began to fashion "the profession's first substantial national support for intellectual freedom."<sup>20</sup> Out of this era came a newly strengthened Library Bill of Rights and the Freedom to Read statement by the ALA and the American Book Publishers Council in 1953. These foundational documents are in evidence in the ALA's present opposition to Section 215 of the USA PATRIOT Act, an opposition that has

been highlighted in recent days during Congressional hearings regarding the Act.

### **Possible Demise of the USA PATRIOT Act?**

The opposition to the Act discussed above has been particularly prominent in recent months because sections of the Act, including Section 215, are subject to "sunsetting," that is, will expire and no longer be in effect, unless those sections are specifically renewed by Congress.

As recently as April 7, 2005, ALA President Carol Brey-Casiano released a statement to the press voicing the ALA's opposition to the Act and deploring statements recently made by FBI Director Robert Mueller.<sup>21</sup> Mueller had stated in hearings considering the renewal of provisions of the Act that he did not know of any written laws that protected the privacy of library records and that he did not think library records should be granted "special protection." ALA President Brey-Casiano's statement to the press pointed out that in fact 48 of the 50 states in the United States have written laws, statutes, that protect library records.<sup>22</sup>

Many provisions are set to "sunset" by December 31, 2005, if not renewed by Congress.<sup>23</sup> While opposition to the Act has been organized, vocal, widespread, and politically diverse,<sup>24</sup> Congress is controlled by the Republican Party and President Bush and his new attorney general, Alberto Gonzales, are both champions of renewal.<sup>25</sup> The hearings are likely to continue into the summer and the outcome is uncertain.

## Conclusion

The USA PATRIOT Act has strained the relationship between libraries and liberty. It is not the first time that the government has sought to invade the library, and liberty, in the name of liberty, and it will not be the last time. The library and information science community has responded vigorously and publicly, in unison with many other groups, communities, and organizations. Petitions, public discussions, bookmarks, websites, resolutions, speeches, empirical research, and more have been used to oppose the Act. Whether such work will succeed in defeating renewal of the Act's excesses is not yet clear, but silence would only ensure that libraries and liberty would no longer be allies.

## Notes

- 1 Nancy Chang, (2002), *Silencing Political Dissent: How Post-September 11 Anti-Terrorism Measures Threaten Our Civil Liberties*, (2002), New York: Seven Stories Press, p. 46-47.
- 2 For example, excellent discussions of both the broad implications of the Act and its impact on libraries include the following: Elaine Cassel, (2004), *The War on Civil Liberties: How Bush and Ashcroft Have Dismantled the Bill of Rights*, Chicago: Lawrence Hill Books; Mary Minow (2002), *The USA PATRIOT Act and Patron Privacy on Library Internet Terminals*, last accessed on May 3, 2005, at <http://www.llrx.com/features/usapatriotact.htm>; Nancy Kranich (2003), *The Impact of the USA PATRIOT Act: An Update*, The Free expression Policy Project Website, article last accessed on March 21, 2005, at <http://www.fepproject.org/commentaries/patriotactupdate.html>.
- 3 (a) Application for order; conduct of investigation generally
  - (1) The Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation or a designee of the Director (whose rank shall be no lower than Assistant Special Agent in Charge) may make an application for an order requiring the production of any tangible things (including books, records, papers, documents, and other items) for an investigation to obtain foreign intelligence information not concerning a United States person or to protect against international terrorism or clandestine intelligence activities, provided that such investigation of a United States person is not conducted solely upon the basis of activities protected by the first amendment to the Constitution.
  - (2) An investigation conducted under this section shall -
    - (A) be conducted under guidelines approved by the Attorney General under Executive Order 12333 (or a successor order); and
    - (B) not be conducted of a United States person solely upon the basis of activities protected by the first amendment to the Constitution of the United States.
  - (b) Recipient and contents of application
 

Each application under this section -

    - (1) shall be made to -
      - (A) a judge of the court established by section 1803(a) of this title; or
      - (B) a United States Magistrate Judge under chapter 43 of title 28, who is publicly designated by the Chief Justice of the United States to have the power to hear applications and grant orders for the production of tangible things under this section on behalf of a judge of that court; and
    - (2) shall specify that the records concerned are sought for an authorized investigation conducted in accordance with subsection
  - (a)(2) of this section to obtain foreign intelligence information not concerning a United States person or to protect against international terrorism or clandestine intelligence activities.
  - (c) Ex parte judicial order of approval
    - (1) Upon an application made pursuant to this section, the judge shall enter an ex parte order as requested, or as modified, approving the release of records if the judge finds that the application meets the requirements of this section.
    - (2) An order under this subsection shall not disclose that it is issued for purposes of an investigation described in subsection (a) of this section.
  - (d) Nondisclosure
 

No person shall disclose to any other person (other than those persons necessary to produce the tangible things under this section) that the Federal Bureau of Investigation has sought or obtained tangible things under this section.
  - (e) Liability for good faith disclosure; waiver
 

A person who, in good faith, produces tangible things under an order pursuant to this section shall not be liable to any other person for such production. Such production shall not be deemed to constitute a waiver of any privilege in any other proceeding or context. 50 U.S.C. § 1861.
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- 18 Joan Starr (2004), *Libraries and National Security: An Historical Review*, First Monday: Peer-Reviewed Journal on the Internet, article last accessed on May 7, 2005, at [http://firstmonday.org/issues/issue9\\_12/starr/](http://firstmonday.org/issues/issue9_12/starr/)
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# Freedom of Information Legislation, Libraries, and the Global Flow of Information

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*Let's get the semantics correct. We are talking about a non-negotiable right of citizens to demand information from the state and other relevant entities to enhance the quality of governance and strengthen the vibrancy of democracy*

Transparency International, June 2005.

## What is Freedom of Information Legislation?

Freedom of information legislation, as defined and analyzed in this essay, gives citizens access to information created and held by government and public officials.

Freedom of information legislation is a key component in the global flow of information and the provision of excellent library service. It serves as a crucial counterbalance to national security legislation and related attempts to restrict the flow of information. National security legislation is in keeping with that

part of international law which affirms the duty of national states to protect their people from violent acts. In contrast, freedom of information legislation affirms human rights law, such as *Article 19* of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which grants people the right "... to receive and impart information and ideas through any media regardless of frontiers."

Government transparency is impossible without freedom of expression legislation. Transparency International, "the only major NGO engaged in combating corruption," hopes that financial incentives for transparency will be brought to bear on government officials, corporations, and banks seeking new business investment opportunities. TI states unequivocally that "A principal tool in the fight against corruption is access to information."<sup>1</sup> This increasingly global flow of information, enabled by communications technology, is a key factor because of its speed and ability to cross national borders. As David Banisar states:

A new era of government transparency has arrived. It is now widely recognized that the culture of secrecy that has been the *modus operandi* of governments for centuries is no longer feasible in a global age of information. Governments in the information age must provide information to succeed.<sup>2</sup>

More than 50 countries now have freedom of information laws - most passed within the past ten years. Why now, especially in the midst of what some call a “global war on terrorism?” One is pressure from international business organizations, especially banks, to facilitate flow of financial information and to prevent corruption. Civil society activists and on-line group cultural theorists envision societies dependent on unfettered access to information. And while it is hard to obtain meaningful data, it is clear that nations with effective flow of information are richer and more powerful than those without it.

What do these freedom of information laws have in common? Banisar lists their major components:

- People are given the right *and means* for requesting government information. Countries differ on whether citizenship is required for obtaining information, and the timeline for filling the request.
- Most laws cover a wide variety of government bodies at all levels, and there is pressure for non-governmental organizations (NGO's) and even private corporations to provide information in some cases.

- Access to intelligence and military records is almost always exempt, or closed for a prescribed time. Exempt information is sometimes subject to a “public interest value” balancing test, in order to ensure maximum access.
- Privacy of personally identifiable information is usually guaranteed, and either cited or included in the content of most freedom of information policies.
- Appeals, oversight, and declassification processes are included in the most effective freedom of information legislation, so that the law can be monitored and legal contests resolved. Also, there should be a mechanism for declassification of those documents which, after a period of time, can be released with impunity.<sup>3</sup>

### How Does Freedom of Information Legislation Affect Libraries?

Most librarian professional codes of ethics or policies include the duty to provide information to those requesting it. For example, the Australian Library and Information Association passed *Principles of access to government information* in 1999, which states, in part:

The Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) believes government information should be recognized as a national resource to be developed and preserved in the public interest . . . ALIA asserts that government information should be publicly available except where restricted by law . . . The public has the right of access to government information . . . Governments should ensure access through libraries . . . Governments should ensure

that information about government information is easily available and in a single comprehensive catalogue (for publications) and a directory (for information). These catalogues and directories should be accessible in a variety of formats.<sup>4</sup>

Government information is just one of many types of content to be provided by libraries. It is especially important for those libraries designated as official repositories, that they provide access to, and even promote the use of, government information. Librarian activists in the civil society movement will argue passionately that without freedom of information, civil discourse is impossible. Farmers use government information for the latest information on proper irrigation techniques. Younger students read government documents about satellites, or how to care for a pet. Scholars often lobby for documents to be declassified so that they can finish their dissertations. Courts need government information to write legislative history. In the United States, Daniel Ellsberg risked imprisonment and professional ruin when he released the *Pentagon Papers*, so that the public would better understand the government's strategy regarding the U.S.-Vietnam War. Government information is powerful, influential, and entrusted to librarians for stewardship and promotion of access.

When government information policy is trumped by national security policy, librarians can find themselves in very murky waters when faced with a subpoena to remove documents from the shelf. This is currently true in the United States under the USA Patriot Act and other national security legislation.

Librarians must play a prominent professional role in understanding, developing, and monitoring freedom of information legislation as it applies to library information content and services. That is why the International Federation of Library Federations and Institutions (IFLA) created, and designated as a Core Activity, the Committee on Access to Information and Freedom of Expression. For librarians in difficult political situations, IFLA can provide the support, trends, strategies, and documentation of what the world library community is advocating in regard to freedom of information in their libraries.

### Examples of Current Freedom of Information Legislation

Excellent sources for keeping current on freedom of information legislation include the already cited "Global Survey of Information and Access to Government Records Around the World" at [www.freedom-info.org](http://www.freedom-info.org), and the organization, Article 19, web site: <http://www.article19.org>.

This paper will highlight representative legislation from around the world.

#### **Australia: Freedom of Information Act 1982 (<http://www.comlaw.gov.au>) updated to May, 2005**

This act enables access to Commonwealth agency documents with a 30-day maximum response requirement. Exemptions are made for personal privacy, security, and similar concerns-but with a "public interest" test. An Administrative Appeals Tribunal handles appeals of negative decisions, and

a Commonwealth Ombudsman handles complaints about the entire FOIA procedure. Between December 1, 1982 and June 30, 2002, agencies received 601, 277 requests. Currently, about 5% of requests are refused.

There have been calls for reform of the 1982 act, especially in regard to what are considered by some to be unreasonable fees. The Australian Law Reform Commission and others have recommended the creation of an FOI Commissioner position and increased oversight over the exemptions process. Changes continue to be made to the original legislation, as circumstances change and open access activists lobby.

The *Archives Act* assures access to most documents after 30 years, if not earlier. The *Privacy Amendment (Private Sector) Act 2000* grants persons the right to access records about themselves held by private parties. The Electronic Frontier Foundation (Australia) and other civil libertarians objected strenuously to 2003 amendments exempting release of “Internet-content” materials from the Australian Broadcasting Authority and the Office of Film and Literature Classification, both of which review content for potentially illegal materials such as child pornography. The Australian government did not want the FOIA to be used by requestors to obtain information otherwise deemed illegal to view in Australia.

Along with such groups as the Electronic Frontier Foundation and the Australian Law Reform Commission, the Australian Library and Information Association has developed a number of policies that can be applied to the current freedom of information legislation. These include the *ALIA core values statement* (2002), which asserts that “access across time and

across cultures is fundamental to a thriving culture, economy and democracy;” *Library and privacy guidelines* (2005) to balance access to information with the individual right to privacy; and *Principles of access to government information* (1999), which affirms the principles of government transparency as essential to library service and the democratic process.<sup>5</sup>

What one might learn from the Australian legislation and library association response is the value of up-to-date web sites for freedom of information and other legislation, so that one can read the bills and laws and monitor civic response. The ALIA web site also reflects the library community’s engagement with these issues from a firm foundation of core values and broad principles regarding access to government information. Such core values are invaluable tools for balancing the impact of national security legislation with human rights considerations. For example, in 2003 the Attorney-General asked the Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) to review the handling of sensitive information. The Commission published *Keeping Secrets: The Protection of Classified and Security Sensitive Information* (2004). This document is valuable for its “background check” on all existing freedom of information legislation that might affect national security. It includes a section on the importance of open government, for example, stating concerns regarding access to government information, protection of “whistleblowers,” and information privacy principles. The report states the dilemma forcefully: “A more open working environment helps to provide checks and balances that are necessary to discourage corruption and misconduct, and to sustain a healthy liberal democracy . . . . Balanced against this is the legitimate public interest in maintaining

the confidentiality and secrecy of some official government information.”<sup>6</sup>

**India: 1982 Supreme Court Ruling (AIR 1982 SC 149); Union of India v. Association for Democratic Reforms (Civil Appeal No 7178 of 2001). Right to Information Act (2005)**

India’s freedom of information environment is complex. Freedom of expression was first based on Supreme Court rulings affirming the right of access to government information. Many observers view these rulings as court pressure on the Indian Parliament to finally pass freedom of information legislation stalled since 2002. In fact, most of the states in India preempted the central government and enacted their own freedom of information laws in order to fight corruption.

In the 2003 *IFLA/FAIFE Report*, the Indian entry (written before the new act), reflects the frustration of the library community:

There is vast scope for allowing freedom of access to government-held information even within the framework of the antiquated Official Secrets Act, only if hide-bound bureaucrats allow it with due discretion, reasonably exercised in tune with evolving notions of open government. Bureaucratic interpretation of the Official Secrets Act and lack of political will are the main causes for not allowing public to have free access to official records of the policy making agencies of the government . . . There is not much of a repression-too strong a word-that Indian libraries and librarians face when it comes to intellectual freedom. What affects them most is shortage of funds that does

not allow any library to get information, even the most essential items or what the users want.<sup>7</sup>

The most interesting development regarding India’s freedom of information legislation is the key role of citizen mobilization to pass it. When civic groups became frustrated that the 2002 law was not funded, the Civil Society Information Exchange’s online newsletter, *India Together*, promoted alternative legislation to break the deadlock. As a result of this popular activism in the world’s largest democracy, the Right to Information Act was passed by the Indian Parliament in May 2005, with an Information Commission to administer it.

The new Indian freedom of information legislation came at the same time that national security legislation was repealed. In response to unrest in Kashmir and Pakistan, the Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA), was passed in 2002 to confront terrorist activity. The definition of “terrorism” was so broad, and some of the measures so draconian, that POTA was repealed in 2004 when the new government of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh kept its election pledge to repeal legislation that had been widely viewed as abused by law enforcement. It will be interesting to watch how India deals with security documents, which are exempt in the new law, but not protected by national security legislation.

Public reaction to the new Indian freedom of information law is mixed. In May, 2005 the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative declared that while they are glad the legislation passed, they view the current law as problematic because it still exempts such bodies as the Cabinet; a 20-year release rule applies

to a vast amount of information; and the selection of commissioners might become politically motivated.<sup>8</sup>

What one can learn from India's experience is the importance of passing a law with enabling legislation to make it operational. Many freedom of information laws get bogged down in the internal mechanisms (or lack thereof) for handling requests and appeals. Citizen activism kept this issue near the top of the Indian national agenda, with lively online interchange and blogging about this issue. Also of interest is the perspective of the Indian library community. It is always difficult to change traditional government bureaucracy, especially when the traditional culture of secrecy is being moved into a more transparent environment. Freedom of information laws work only as well as those bureaucrats who work with the public. It is also important to note that economic barriers to information in the developing world often trump such issues as open access to information. If government information is released on the Internet, for example, many libraries in the developing world might not have access anyway.

**Peru: Law of Transparency and Access to Public Information, in effect 2003 ([www.freedominfo.org/news/peru2/](http://www.freedominfo.org/news/peru2/))**

Peru's freedom of information legislation gives every individual the right to request information in any medium from any government agency or private agency providing public services. The Peruvian Press Council led the charge for passing this legislation. The original act has already been amended to limit exemptions, which now include national security information, commercial secrets, ongoing investiga-

tions, personal privacy, and others. Interestingly, this law requires government departments to create web sites and publish information on their operating costs, activities, salaries, and related information. An Ombudsman trains the staff and promotes the act. There is also an appeals process administered by the courts for the constitutional right of *habeas data*-a right to information protected by the Peruvian Constitution: "All persons have the right to solicit information that one needs without disclosing the reason, and to receive that information from any public entity within the period specified by law, at a reasonable cost . . ."

While they believe the law is a step in the right direction, the Peruvian Press Council objects to the law's uncertainty regarding the status of records from the armed forces or police. Also, the press is concerned that the law does not designate clearly the person responsible for releasing the government information to the requestor. Like most citizen activists in other countries, they believe that there are too many exemptions.

**South Africa (1996 Constitution of South Africa, Section 32; Promotion of Access to Information Act, 2001)**

Countries like Poland and South Africa have grappled with the disposition of records of human rights violations from periods of national strife and transition. Polish citizens remain concerned about personal files that were maintained by the Communist Party. South African citizens are facing problems over records needed by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission



for their investigations. They have discovered that many have been systematically destroyed.

Freedom of information is protected in South Africa by Section 32 of the 1996 South African Constitution, which states that “everyone has the right of access to (a) any information held by the state . . .” In 2001 the *Promotion of Access to Information Act* was approved by Parliament. It implements the constitutional guarantees and promotes governmental transparency. Individuals can request records without giving a reason, and state bodies must respond within 30 days. When necessary to enforce people’s rights, even private organizations must provide requested records within 30 days.

While there are a number of exemptions, including provincial legislatures and records of individual members of Parliament, these must be balanced against a public-interest test which includes such factors as “environmental risk.” The South African courts handle appeals. Public and private organizations must publish operational manuals of their activities, in the interest of promoting transparency. The functioning of the Act is overseen by the South African Human Rights Commission. At the time of the report used for this essay, the Commission had not received funding for its mandate, however—a problem in a number of countries. Citizens still grapple with the problem of access to Apartheid-era records, some of which have been destroyed, but some of which have been transferred to the National Intelligence Agency.

South Africa’s law is interesting because of the disposition of records needed for redress of grievances

during the Apartheid era. This situation will be problematic for a number of countries with massive human rights violations in recent years. For an excellent overview of the South African freedom of information law, within the context of Africa, see Mukelani Dimba’s 2002 report, “A Landmark Law Opens Up Post-Apartheid South Africa,” on the Freedominfo.org web site. It reviews the opportunities and challenges presented by the new legislation, within the context of the larger African continent.

### **The Impact of Communications Technology on Freedom of Information Legislation**

Internet communications and other digital technologies have created opportunities and challenges for the global information society. Copyright laws are difficult to enforce because digital information is so easily reproducible. And while firewalls and software filtering are being used very effectively by many national governments, in some cases sophisticated users can get around the barriers. As John Gilmore, co-founder of the Electronic Frontier Foundation, said in 1993: “The Net interprets censorship as damage and routes around it.” The phenomenon of sophisticated “techies” hacking into secure systems almost guarantees that exempted information may see the light of day regardless of the law. In the Ukraine “Orange Revolution,” weblogs (blogs) provided the Western media and civil society activists a view of what was going on in that country, so that the news could be reported. In Iran, secular and religious youth communicate via blogs when the alternative press is shut down. Government attempts to impose filters have had varying degrees of success. The NITLE Weblog



Census shows that Farsi is the fourth-most widely used language among blogs worldwide.

### **Counterbalances to Freedom of Information Legislation**

Freedom of information legislation can be compromised in a number of ways—first, by exemptions contained within the document itself. Some challenges to FOIA come from non-governmental sources. And sometimes freedom of information legislation is more than we bargained for, when it conflicts with the right to privacy and the duty to protect citizens during war. And, as we have seen, freedom of information laws can be passed without enacting legislation, so that improper funding guarantees an unsuccessful implementation of the law.

#### **• National Security Legislation**

The rise of terrorism as a particular form of global warfare—often called “non-state transnational security threats”—prompted national governments to respond with this particular type of legislation, particularly after the attacks on the United States of America on September 11, 2001. National security legislation is sometimes the catalyst for the reduction of budgets for government printing and for other restrictions on the creation and dissemination of government information. In addition, some government web sites have been cleansed of potentially sensitive information, and, in the USA, some government documents librarians have been ordered to destroy or return certain documents to the government.

The 2001 *USA Patriot Act* granted then-Attorney General John Ashcroft additional powers to fight terrorism. Important for libraries is Section 215, which allows the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to gain access to library records, including electronic data, without probable cause to believe that a crime has been committed. Further, librarians served with a search warrant may not disclose that they have been served, except to their supervisor and attorney. A patron cannot be told that his/her library records are part of an FBI investigation. In May 2005, the U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence began considering—in closed session—possible reauthorization and expansion of the scope of the USA Patriot Act. The American Civil Liberties Union and the Electronic Frontier Foundation have already expressed their concerns publicly, and American Library Association will certainly weigh in at the upcoming annual meeting in Chicago in June, 2005. At the time of this publication, the outcome is uncertain.

#### **• Privacy Legislation**

Because identity theft has become a national epidemic in some parts of the world, while some citizens are being issued national identity cards, many nations have included privacy clauses in their freedom of information legislation. Personally identifiable information is usually exempted. In some legislation, citizens have the right to obtain such information about themselves from government and private bodies. In the USA, civil privacy legislation such as the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974, preserves the confidentiality of medical and financial records.

### • Non-governmental Organizations

NGO's, trans-national corporations, international institutions, foundations, funding agencies, and professional organizations are not always covered by freedom of information laws, despite their ever-growing and integral role in socioeconomic development and government policy making. Some freedom of information legislation does provide for citizen access to information from non-governmental bodies-something to consider when amending existing legislation or writing it for the first time.

### • Economic Barriers

Much government information resides on the World Wide Web. Economic forces make Internet access expensive and substandard for those countries with lower densities of communication and thin bandwidth routes. Librarians must ensure that the "social good" is incorporated into freedom of information policies. We must work with the telecommunications industry and other library vendors so that they incorporate the developing world into their marketing and financial strategies. In Latin America, for example:

...phone, much less Internet, penetration remains stubbornly low. What we do see is perhaps the creation of a dual system of global citizenship. The dominant class travels legally in comfort and manages the global system of flows of information ... the lower class also travels the world if only to escape the poverty of their countries, but they travel in search of the lowest form of employment that will allow it to send remittances home.<sup>9</sup>

### • Intellectual Property Protections

Lawrence Lessig's *Free Culture: How Big Media Uses Technology and the Law to Lock Down Culture and Control Creativity* is a must-read account of the harmful effects of an overly protective copyright system. Strict copyright laws do not foster the unfettered global flow of information. Lessig tells the story of a meeting cancelled by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) because the topics seemed to threaten the existing IP order. The meeting agenda included analysis of open and collaborative projects to create public goods. These are projects that have been successful in producing public goods without relying exclusively upon a proprietary use of intellectual property. Examples include the Internet and the World Wide Web, both of which were developed on the basis of protocols in the public domain. It included an emerging trend to support open academic journals, including the Public Library of Science project ... The aim of the meeting was to consider this wide range of projects from one common perspective: that none of these projects relied upon intellectual property extremism.<sup>10</sup>

In the United States, government documents published by the Government Printing Office are not protected by copyright. However, when publishers repackage them with commentary or other embellishment, the situation changes. Librarians must lobby their library associations to assign government documents a high priority.

### Hope, Frustration, Patience, and Action: An Inspirational Case Study

The organization called Article 19 has just published an essential study: *Under Lock and Key: Freedom of Information and the Media in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia* (April 2005). This study analyzes the attempt of three countries to adopt a media strategy for the implementation of their newly crafted freedom of information laws.

The report reveals the ongoing difficulty of journalists in obtaining government information, so that their role as “watchdogs” is severely compromised. In interviews with journalists and government officials, it is clear that these three countries have a long way to go in their implementation of the freedom of information legislation. The report’s main findings are not surprising, but do serve as a review of what can go wrong after laws are passed:

The major obstacles to accessing official information by the media in Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia include:

- Lack of procedures and mechanisms for access to information, or the lack of appropriate legislation (as in Azerbaijan) that creates the environment for arbitrary manipulation of information, and in extreme cases, even release of false information by officials;
- Soviet-style attitudes and traditions of secrecy amongst officials;
- The lack of professionalism and solidarity among the media;

- When refused access to the requested information, media professionals often use alternative sources of information.<sup>11</sup>

And yet, the report concludes that “joint efforts of the media and their professional associations, civil society groups, international actors, and, above all, government institutions themselves are needed to advance the important right of freedom of access to information and to enable the media to play their key role as an intermediary between the people and the government.”<sup>12</sup>

Librarians must become part of the conversation about freedom of information laws so that their concerns, like those of journalists, are part of the conversation and policy formulation. National information policy development is a terrific way to become immersed in the issues. Anne-Marie Arnold’s recent article is a “must read” for librarians wanting to place libraries strategically in the national planning for socioeconomic development, and to advocate for the role of libraries as promoters of the free flow of information.<sup>13</sup>

Envision the kind of library - a global public sphere, perhaps - that makes maximum use of freedom of information laws. What would it be like? Only after dreaming of the possible, can we as librarians understand what could be taken away from us unless we are vigilant. We must continue to work with national and international library and information associations, but also with allies in civil society, privacy, human rights, and information technology groups. Together we will not only advocate for freedom of information laws, but implement them at the grass roots level so

that they truly enhance access to information for our citizens.

## Notes

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# IFLA and Social Responsibility: A Core Value of Librarianship

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“...And our species, when one day it is completely formed, will not define itself as the sum of the world’s inhabitants, but as the infinite unity of their reciprocal relations.”

Jean-Paul Sartre<sup>1</sup>

## Introduction

What does it mean to be a socially responsible librarian? As a young librarian attending the 1985 Chicago IFLA meeting, I was awestruck when E. J. Josey<sup>2</sup> interrupted the first plenary session to demand that IFLA dissociate itself from apartheid South Africa. I later learned of his work in desegregating libraries in the southern states of the United States. His enormous energy and courage shaped my own understanding of librarianship – a belief that the core values of our profession demand that we take seriously our own role in furthering justice in our communities.

Writing an article on socially responsible librarianship is rather daunting because the topic is so huge. In

these days when war and the threat of terrorism confront many of us everyday, we need to assess new priorities at the local, national, and international levels. How can we think locally and act globally, and how can we think globally and act locally? The 2003 IFLA resolution in Berlin on national security legislation comes to mind.<sup>3</sup> We need to try to preserve privacy rights for our library users against legislation such as the USA Patriot Act and similar legislation in many countries. We can’t let these laws intimidate people from checking out the library materials they want to read or see. We must continue to promote free access to government information as a basic component of good government. It is obvious that people must be able to access information in order to intelligently participate in decision-making. We must defend Freedom of speech, which is of course a prerequisite for democracy. Ralph Nader has taught Americans that we must go back to being “citizens” rather than only “consumers.” Public libraries provide community information on local health services, bus routes, job opportunities, and other social services. Libraries

can also provide tax forms and condoms to prevent HIV/AIDS. Public libraries can be a place for literacy classes and voter registration. They can indeed become community centers where people, including poor people, immigrants, and diverse populations of all kinds find materials and participate in local culture and civic affairs to actualize their potentials and develop their communities.

Of course, library associations play an important role in contextualizing library practices at the national and international levels. And it is therefore a pleasure to be invited to write this article on IFLA and socially responsible librarianship for IFLA's World Report. In a sense it is quite personal because of my involvement for so many years in the Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT) of the American Library Association (ALA) and in the IFLA Social Responsibilities Discussion Group (SRDG). Although the terminology may vary by language, I think the English usage of the phrase, "social responsibilities" comes from the establishment of SRRT about thirty-five years ago. It is therefore useful to explore some of this library history.

The American Library Association has lobbied on social justice issues since at least World War I.<sup>4</sup> However the debate really heated up in the late 1960s and early 1970s when North America and Europe were undergoing a period of great social upheaval. Large social movements in the United States arose demanding an end to racism, opposition to the US war on Southeast Asia, and much more room for individual freedoms and expression. Since libraries exist within society, these social movements were naturally reflected in the lives of librarians

and within the American Library Association. One reaction to this tension was the publication of David Berninghausen's article claiming that ALA could not survive if it continued down the social responsibility path.<sup>5</sup> He advocated AGAINST addressing the issues of his time, and he enumerated many of them that presumably were debated in the ALA Council. These included racial injustice, pollution, a strong United Nations, homosexuality, voting age, the separation of church and state, building universities, supporting political prisoners, and any other so-called non-library issues "regardless of how vital they may be for the future of humanity." He did not list opposition to the Viet Nam War, but that issue also belatedly cleared the ALA Council. Those who felt strongly that ALA must and should take positions on controversial issues have been vindicated. ALA continues to grow each year, and its vital role in national discussions has never been more important. The accolades for the organization's strong advocacy against some of the provisions of the USA Patriot Act clearly make that case.

Berninghausen argued that ALA was established for a common purpose, "...to promote library service and librarianship."<sup>6</sup> He believed that taking stands on social justice issues would undermine ALA's credibility as a defender of intellectual freedom, and he wrongly assumed that progressives would abandon the principle of building balanced collections. In response, Pat Schuman stated that libraries were in fact part of society, and that societal "sickness" such as racism, poverty and war interfere with the free flow of information.<sup>7</sup> Robbins noted that support for Berninghausen's view resulted in "myopic professionalism ...to support intellectual freedom for those who have power while denying it to those who are powerless."<sup>8</sup> Sellen, Schuman,

and Robbins argued that social issues are library issues because libraries exist within society, the real world with all its problems and possibilities.

At a deeper level, this is a debate about the nature and ideology of librarianship. A narrow instrumentalist view leads to a passive profession content to follow the societal trends of the day and adjust accordingly. A wider truly professional view leads to active engagement in the larger world to actualize our values and make our world a better place.

This article will place the idea of social responsible librarianship in its historical context, beginning with the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association, moving on to several international efforts organized by North and South American, European, and South African groups, and ending with IFLA, and especially the IFLA FAIFE. Building on past achievements and learning from our shortcomings, we can determine a few areas for current and future FAIFE initiatives.

## Inequality

World inequality is growing. The income range between the richest five countries and the poorest countries was a factor of three in 1820, rose to eleven by 1913, surged to thirty-five by 1950, and increased to seventy-two by 1992.<sup>9</sup> The United Nations Development Programme calls this a “dangerous polarization’ between the rich and the poor. Furthermore, the gaps within countries are increasing. The affluent elites, especially in the capital cities, live well and have access to libraries and information, but the poor are lagging behind. This so-called “digital divide” is

nothing new. The UNDP shows the same divergence in access to electricity and telephones.<sup>10</sup> We might also cite access to books, journals, videos, community information, and indeed literacy itself.

These gaps are even evident in rich countries like the United States, which has more computers than the entire rest of the world. For example, in the year 2000, computers went from a minority to a majority (51%) acquisition for US homes. 88% of households with an income of \$75,000 or more had computers but for households with incomes less than \$25,000, only 28% owned computers. Only 37% of black adults and 35% of Hispanic adults owned computers.<sup>11</sup>

The terminology is important for our understanding. This author has argued elsewhere that the term “digital divide” disguises rather than clarifies the problem of systemic inequality in the world economy based on neo-liberal economics, the World Bank’s Economic Structural Adjustment policies, massive unsupportable debt payments, and unfair trade regimes under the World Trade Organization.<sup>12</sup> Perhaps the term “information crisis” more accurately describes this phenomenon.

## The ALA Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT)

“...ALA recognizes its broad social responsibilities...” From the Introduction to section one of the “ALA Policy Manual.”

Before engaging IFLA and other international efforts, it seems appropriate to provide some information about what SRRT is and what it has accomplished as a



model for what FAIFE might consider in the immediate future. It is obvious that advocating controversial issues is never easy and sometimes puts one at risk. It is a tribute to the perseverance and personal courage of so many library activists that so much has been accomplished.

The Social Responsibilities Round Table is one of sixteen round tables within ALA. As one of the largest ones (over 1600 members), it has representation on the ALA Council, which is the governing body. It publishes a newsletter, has a website, and gives awards.<sup>13</sup> In addition, several of its task forces also publish their own newsletters. As ALA is governed by a Council, SRRT is governed by an Action Council. It is presently made up of 8 at-large elected members, chairs of all the task forces, representatives of state and other affiliate groups, the SRRT Councilor to the ALA Council, and the Newsletter Editor (ex officio). The Action Council elects a Coordinator, Secretary, Treasurer, and approves a Newsletter Editor.

Current task forces include: Alternatives in Print; Environment; Feminist; Hunger, Homeless and Poverty; Information Policy in the Public Interest; International Responsibilities; and Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday. As a decentralized organization, task forces initiate much of the work including programs and resolutions.

For the period 1991-2005, SRRT has sponsored more than 140 programs during the ALA annual meetings in the following categories:

Alternative Press	23
Environment	21

Feminism	19
Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgendered	17
Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday	16
International Responsibilities	12
African-American Children's Books	11
Hunger, Homelessness And Poverty	6
Peace	4
Information Policy	2
Library Unions	1
Workplace Freedom	1
Censorship of Museum Exhibits	1
Forming a Worldwide Network	1
Preservation of Original Documents	1

Examples of recent SRRT programs include:

- Are You Missing any Information?: Speaking & Publishing Freely on the Environment
- Best Copy Available [Nicholson Baker on preserving original documents]
- Cuba: Sovereignty, Development and Intellectual Freedom
- Cultural Democracy and the Information Commons
- Economic Barriers to Library Access
- Energy Efficiency, Friendly Buildings, and Librarians' Sustainability
- Erotica in Libraries
- Librarians Confront the War in Iraq
- Making Earth Day Every Day
- Pornography, Feminism and the Internet
- The WTO and Libraries: Perspectives on Globalization

SRRT Resolutions have often resulted from programs, and these resolutions were sometimes forwarded to the ALA Council. They have addressed a wide range of issues, which can be seen in the list of twelve topics and examples below. At least 81 resolutions were approved from 1991 to 2005 (excluding internal SRRT business). Most of these were intended to not only put the Round Table on record, but also to be distributed to relevant bodies in order to help support some cause or position. SRRT has never been bashful in address-

ing government agencies and politicians. Of these 81 resolutions, only fifteen were sent to ALA Council either through passage at an ALA Membership Meeting, through friendly Councilors At Large, or more recently through the new SRRT Councilor (since January 2000). The SRRT Action Council has strategically picked when to engage the ALA Council; most resolutions were considered so far from winnable that they were not sent there for debate. Of the fifteen resolutions that did go to Council, four have passed, two have passed in a watered down form, eight have failed, and one is pending.

After many years of prodding, the ALA Council finally implemented its own affiliation policy and broke its relationship with the Boy Scouts of America over their homophobic policy. ALA's commitment to equity in library services made it possible to pass a good policy on services to poor people, but it took many years of effort to begin some work on implementation. One battle was originally won and later overturned, the criticism of censorship in Israel and the Occupied Territories. As a practical matter, SRRT's international efforts have usually concentrated on issues and countries that are directly tied to U.S. foreign policy. Since the U.S. gives \$2 to \$3 billion per year to Israel, it seemed appropriate to target intellectual freedom and human rights violations in that country and the territories it illegally occupies. Because of ALA's commitment to intellectual freedom, and though a real democratic process, SRRT was able to pass two resolutions through the Membership Meeting and then the ALA Council in 1992. One defended the rights of a librarian in a Palestinian university, and the other called for real freedom of expression in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza. This

provoked an intense backlash when some American Zionist lobby groups heard what had happened. These groups were able to pack the next Membership Meeting, overturn the broad membership resolution on intellectual freedom, and then overturn the Council resolution. In fact, the ALA Council nearly debated abolishing SRRT! And to try to prevent future Membership Meeting actions, the Council orchestrated the implementation of a nearly impossible Membership Meeting quorum. It is a pleasure to report that after eleven years, a Membership referendum has just passed to reinstate a reasonable quorum.

SRRT resolutions that have passed the ALA Council in a much watered-down form concerned the USA PATRIOT Act and the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS). SRRT resolutions that have failed in Council include: two resolutions on socially responsible investing of ALA's endowment fund, opposition to an ALA partnership with MacDonald's, thorough opposition to outsourcing, restrictions on Gates Foundation practices, putting a union boycott clause in future hotel contracts, and two resolutions on reducing the quorum for ALA Membership Meetings. The pending resolution is on the protection of workplace speech.

The 81 SRRT resolutions can be categorized in the following topics:

International Responsibilities	25
Intellectual Freedom	18
ALA Governance/Democracy	10
Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender	6
Environment	4
Racism	5
Library of Congress Issues	3

Labor Relations	3
Poverty	3
Alternative Press	1
Women's Issues	1
Library Education	1

Examples of recent SRRT resolutions include:

- Cultural Democracy as a Core Value
- Ending of Restrictions on US Citizens' Travel to Cuba
- Ending the US Occupation of Iraq
- Prohibition of Racist Training Materials by the US Military
- Protection of Workplace Speech
- Repealing the Entire USA Patriot Act
- Torture as a Violation of Our Basic Values as Librarians

### International Efforts<sup>14</sup>

The Progressive Librarians Guild began as an independent regional organization in the New York/Mid-Atlantic area of the United States in 1990. However it quickly became a national body and soon attracted international members. It also quickly affiliated with the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association (SRRT) in order to have one foot inside and one foot outside the American Library Association (ALA). Besides sponsoring outstanding ALA programs, its greatest accomplishment is its journal, the *Progressive Librarian*. For further information, see the website.<sup>15</sup>

Raimund Dehmlow in Hannover, Germany began an online directory of "Progressive Librarians Around the World" in 1997 or 1998. It included library organizations, individual libraries, individuals, publications, library solidarity projects, and websites. By the time it folded in early 2001, it included list-

ings from 18 countries. Raimund's directory sparked the idea of calling a meeting of progressive library organizations at the 1998 ALA Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. The Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association was able to get a grant to invite representatives from all the organizations listed. They came from Information for Social Change in the United Kingdom, Arbeitskreis Kritischer BibliothekarInnen (AKRIBIE) in Germany, Arbeitskreis Kritischer BibliothekarInnen im Renner-Institut (KRIBIBI) in Austria, Bibliotek I Samhaelle (BIS) in Sweden and the Library and Information Workers Organization (LIWO) in South Africa. The idea was to find ways to cooperate and advance our work across the world. As a result, an informal network and a listserv were established. Meanwhile the directory was growing. AKRIBIE and KRIBIBI called a second meeting in Vienna for November 2000, providing hotel accommodations and food. All of the organizations at the Washington meeting were there as well as several others. It was profoundly disheartening that differing positions around Cuba and other personal and organizational disputes disturbed the proceedings. It is unfortunate that the organizers did not call for discussion around principles of unity well before the meeting. In short, inadequate preparation resulted in a failed meeting. The online directory and website were discontinued in the first part of 2001. Probably all of those present in Vienna came away saddened that more could not have been accomplished.

On a more positive note, the 2004 Buenos Aires IFLA Conference provided a venue for progressive librarians from the Latin American and Caribbean region to discuss and formulate a declaration (recently

translated into English).<sup>16</sup> This meeting was titled the First Social Forum of Information, Documentation and Libraries: Alternative Action Programs from Latin America for a Knowledge-Based Society. It was organized by the Grupo de Estudios Sociales en Bibliotecología y Documentación (Social Studies Group in Librarianship and Documentation) from Argentina and the Circulo de Estudios sobre Bibliotecología Política y Social (The Study Circle on Political and Social Librarianship) from Mexico. The declaration is a short broad overview concerning principles that should underlie our work. It is notable that it stresses the need for peace, environmental justice, and the use of national and indigenous languages.

Note that of the nine organizations listed above, only one (SRRT) is an official body of a national library organization. This shows the need for more emphasis on socially responsible work within national library organizations worldwide.

### IFLA History

Although various IFLA bodies may have addressed social justice issues in a limited way for some time, the year 1984 saw a breakthrough with the establishment of a core program called Advancement of Librarianship in the Third World (ALP), since last year now called Action for Development through Libraries Programme. ALP has worked hard and has been successful in getting grants for various projects, but it has not been able to adequately address the social justice nature of the information crisis and other pressing issues.

Librarianship exists within the world social context,

as well as within the social structure of each individual country. The example of how IFLA failed to deal with apartheid South Africa is perhaps most instructive. In 1972 under pressure from a UNESCO suspension, the IFLA Executive Board requested the South African Library Association to withdraw its membership from IFLA. South African IFLA members lost their voting rights in 1974. However, voting rights were restored in 1977 citing bogus changed conditions. By 1985, the IFLA Council passed a resolution demanding that apartheid members continue to be excluded. But even with continued pressure by an international group of IFLA members, and even a demonstration outside the IFLA Conference in 1990, this resolution was never implemented but rather subverted by various surveys and investigations. The resolution finally became moot after South Africa's first democratic election.

IFLA continued without any structures to address similar social justice issues through the late 1990s. Let me provide a few more examples. Although the large majority of US librarians attending the 1994 IFLA Havana conference signed a petition against the US boycott of Cuba, the IFLA Executive Board took no action. The 1995 Istanbul IFLA conference took place just after Pen International issued its annual report showing that Turkey had imprisoned more journalists than any other country. When two resolutions were developed to try to influence this situation during the conference, the then IFLA Executive Board pressured the movers to withdraw their resolutions, and succeeded in getting rid of one of them. Under intense pressure from the IFLA leadership, all mention of Turkey was deleted from the resolution eventually passed by the IFLA Council.

The 2000 IFLA Jerusalem conference was held just before the beginning of the second Intifada. People in Israel/Palestine were very tense wondering if negotiations would develop, if Palestine would declare independence, or if further rebellion would ensue. It soon became clear that the local conference organizers had excluded Palestinian librarians and that all the Arab countries were boycotting the conference and holding their own meeting in Cairo. The government of Israel used the conference to put forward its own political agenda, even welcoming the attendees to “the unified capital of the State of Israel.” The keynote speaker turned out to be from Israel’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs. A number of librarians protested in both public and private ways during the meeting and IFLA was presented with a statement from the National Conference of Palestinian Librarians calling for UNESCO intervention to maintain the cultural identity of the city of Jerusalem. The IFLA Executive Board finally dissociated itself from the politics of the conference, but claimed this was beyond the control of the local organizing committee.

### **IFLA Social Responsibilities Discussion Group**

Something clearly had to be done to make it possible for IFLA to address pressing issues. At the 1996 Beijing conference, a small group got together to discuss forming a Social Responsibilities Discussion Group (SRDG). This effort came to fruition at the 1997 Copenhagen conference where the body was established under the Section on Education and Training. It was decided to focus on “The growing gap between the information rich and the information poor, both between countries and within countries.” (FAIFE was established in 1997. Perhaps an article on its history

could be developed for its tenth anniversary, but such a treatment is out of scope here).

Six discussion papers were delivered by the SRDG at the 1998 Amsterdam meeting under the broad information gap theme (still available on the IFLANET). The topics were Rural Library Development (Kalpana Dasgupta), Literacy in Libraries (Josephine Andersen), Fees for Library Service (Kristine Abelsnes), Human Resource Development (Dennis Ocholla), The Electronic Information Gap (Al Kagan), and North-South Library Development (Ismail Abdullahi).

A composite paper including recommendations was delivered at the 1999 Bangkok conference. The paper was published not only on the IFLANET but also in IFLA Journal, and later in an IFLA monograph.<sup>17</sup> The fourteen recommendations were strengthened and clarified at the 2000 Jerusalem conference and transmitted by the Section on Education and Training to the Division of Education and Research, which in turn sent the recommendations to the Professional Board. The recommendations were approved by the Board at its December 2000 meeting in The Hague. At the same time the Discussion Group applied for section status to carry on the work. However the IFLA Executive Board rejected that request at the 2001 Boston conference and instead advocated that the issues should be mainstreamed through the appropriate IFLA bodies. The recommendations were then slightly refined at the 2002 Glasgow conference, transmitted to the Governing Board, and approved by the IFLA Council. Just before the 2003 Berlin conference, the IFLA Governing Board forwarded the recommendation to seventeen IFLA bodies for their

consideration and for possible action in developing their strategic plans. This author then advocated ac-

tion in Berlin at the meetings of fifteen sections, the Regional Activities Division, and FAIFE.

### Here are the recommendations:

#### • Rural Library Development

1. IFLA should develop a research program on rural library development in coordination with national library agencies. The focus should be on empowerment of local authorities to process information required by the community in comprehensible formats for diverse rural populations.

#### • Literacy in Libraries

2. IFLA should urge library and information schools to promote adult basic education skills as a component of their curriculums.

3. IFLA should promote literacy training as a basic library service as advocated in the UNESCO Public Library Manifesto.

#### • Fees for Library Services

4. IFLA should take a strong position against fees for basic services broadly construed as advocated in the UNESCO Public Library Manifesto.

5. IFLA should work with commercial information providers to establish a standard price structure for publicly supported libraries based on ability to pay.

#### • Human Resource Development

6. IFLA should encourage library and information science schools to adopt a socially responsible orientation, including the promotion of a strong service ethic towards all population groups.

7. IFLA should research the education and training needs of Southern countries in conjunction with relevant agencies in order to facilitate the development of appropriate information curricula.

#### • Electronic Information Gap

8. IFLA should promote the development of and assist in formatting local content for electronic resources.

9. IFLA should work with appropriate national and international bodies to promote policies and develop programs that equalize access to the Internet.

#### • Library Cooperation

10. IFLA should promote greater resource sharing between the information rich and the information poor, including links to the information superhighway for equitable, adequate and reliable communications for all.

#### • The Profession, Library Associations, and IFLA Structure

11. IFLA should advocate and develop strategies for the use of library associations to develop policies conducive to the development of information infrastructures for equitable, adequate and reliable communications for all.

12. IFLA should monitor and report on how various library associations are addressing information gap issues with a view to stimulating further work and activities.

13. IFLA should continue to work toward putting the concerns of Third World librarianship at the center of its program and activities.



It is much too soon to be able to evaluate the effects of the IFLA Social Responsibilities Discussion Group, but it is heartening to note that some IFLA bodies have taken this work seriously and have included some of the recommendations in their plans. Work has even begun on some of them. FAIFE is the most obvious example as described below. Furthermore, IFLA as a whole has now adopted a three-pillar approach to address “Society, Members, and Profession.” This new emphasis on Society appears to be a direct result of the work of the Discussion Group.

### FAIFE and Social Responsibilities

The FAIFE Committee is discussing its strategic plan for the next three-year period. Social responsibilities will be explicitly mentioned, and will likely include the categories of empowerment for the poor, HIV/AIDS information, gender issues, access to the Internet, lifelong literacy, and government transparency to fight corruption. FAIFE also intends to send a mission to Israel/Palestine to assess freedom of expression issues. And FAIFE will need to address the poor freedom of expression situation in Tunisia, the venue of the next World Summit on the Information

Society. The forthcoming FAIFE World Report will present new data on several of these topics.

In cooperation with the three IFLA regional sections and the Copyright and Other Legal Matters Committee, FAIFE will organize around HIV/AIDS information issues at both the 2006 conference in Seoul and the 2007 conference in Durban. For 2006, we are planning a panel that will include an overview of the disease and the information situation from a librarian at the World Health Organization, a paper on the situation in Thailand, a presentation on the gender power imbalance and HIV/AIDS transmission focusing on Africa, and a paper on the situation in Latin America. For 2007, we plan not only a panel but also a performance and a film. The panel will include an overview of the situation in Africa, a speaker from the main AIDS activist group in South Africa (the Treatment Action Campaign), a speaker on the intellectual property issues related to the pharmaceutical industry, and a speaker on information seeking behavior. We hope to show the award winning HIV/AIDS film, “Yesterday,” and to bring the most well-known and loved South African satirist/activist, Pieter-Dirk Uys, who is currently doing a show titled “Foreign AIDS.” We are also planning posters sessions at both conferences.

#### Recommendations for FAIFE

1. The SRRT organizational model suggests that it might be productive to form FAIFE subcommittees or working groups, to get more people involved with appropriate expertise. It also suggests that FAIFE might want to have some more formal representation on the IFLA Governing Board.
2. The limited success of the efforts to coordinate the national progressive library organizations suggests the need for further initiatives. It could be very productive to foster their participation within IFLA, possibly through a special dues category for small organizations in the richer countries.
3. In the current period of increasing conflict and war, civil society organizations have a special responsibility to do what they can to make our world a better place. FAIFE can fulfill this function for IFLA through bold initiatives.

## Conclusion

We live in volatile times where inequality, violence, and prejudice of all kinds threaten the human community. When we as librarians do our job well, libraries serve as a resource for the entire community, a resource that can provide access to information and cultural materials to all, without distinction to class, gender, ethnic group, country of origin, citizenship status, or sexual orientation. Our materials and services can make a meaningful contribution to the people of our communities by promoting literacy, equalizing access to materials in all formats, advocating for human rights, preserving and promoting cultures, and by promoting intellectual freedom. Libraries can become true community centers.

Library associations can facilitate this role by educating and organizing librarians to advocate for justice. This article has highlighted the role of socially responsible librarianship within the American Library Associations and has noted the efforts of several other library groups. The history of IFLA's involvement in various issues has resulted in the formation of the Social Responsibilities Discussion Group and FAIFE, which is now struggling to meet its potential. It will be up to the IFLA association and institutional members as well as the IFLA Governing Board to nurture FAIFE and provide the necessary resources to expand its activities. We can help foster Sartre's call for "infinite unity" by taking brave actions. The ethics of our profession oblige us to do no less.

## Notes

- 1 Sartre's preface to Franz Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth*, Paris: Maspéro, 1961.
- 2 The second African-American President of the American Library Association, 1984-1985.
- 3 See <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla69/resolutions.htm>
- 4 Some of this material on ALA and SRRT was adapted from the author's "Living in the Real World: A Decade of Progressive Librarianship in the USA and in International Library Organizations," *Innovation: A Journal for Appropriate Librarianship and Information Work in Southern Africa* no. 22 (June 2001): 10-19.
- 5 David Berninghausen, "Social Responsibility vs. the Library Bill of Rights," *Library Journal*, 97, 20 (November 15, 1972): 3675-3681.
- 6 LA Constitution, Article II, Section I.
- 7 Pat Schuman in "The Berninghausen Debate," *Library Journal*, 98, 1 (January 1, 1973): 28-29.
- 8 Jane Robbins in "The Berninghausen Debate," *Library Journal*, 98, 1 (January 1, 1973): 29.
- 9 Human Development Report, New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press for the United Nations Development Programme, 1999, p. 38.
- 10 Human Development Report, New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press for the United Nations Development Programme, 2001, p. 41.
- 11 US Bureau of the Census, noted in "Report counts computers in majority of U.S. Homes," *New York Times*, 7 September 2001, p. A15.
- 12 Introduction to "The African Information Crisis," *ACAS Bulletin*, no. 62/63, Spring 2002, 1-5. ACAS is the Association of Concerned Africa Scholars.
- 13 See <http://libr.org/SRRT/>
- 14 Most of this section was adapted from the author's "Living in the Real World: A Decade of Progressive Librarianship in the USA and in International Library Organizations," *Innovation: A Journal for Appropriate Librarianship and Information Work in Southern Africa* no. 22 (June 2001): 10-19. This issue of *Innovation* is titled "Progressive Librarianship," and includes articles about a number of the organizations mentioned here.
- 15 See <http://www.libr.org/PLG/>
- 16 See <http://www.inforosocial.org/declaration.html>
- 17 In *Libraries in the Information Society*, ed. Tatiana V. Ershova and Yuri Hohlov, 39-46. Munchen: K. G. Saur, 2002. Originally published *IFLA Journal* 20, 1 (2000): 28-33, and <http://www.ifla.org/VII/dg/srdg/srdg7.htm>.





# Methodology

**Stuart Hamilton      &      Susanne Seidelin**

In the following we would like to introduce the reader to the World Report and its data collection process. The World Report 2005 is the third of our biannual reports and the methodology used for its completion builds on the lessons learned from its predecessors in 2001 and 2003. This chapter shall therefore begin with a recap of procedures used in the earlier reports, before detailing the methods used to produce the 2005 version.

## **The World Report 2001**

The 2001 report was IFLA/FAIFE's first attempt to review the status of libraries and intellectual freedom around the world. It was based on information received from colleagues and supporters of intellectual freedom between 1998-2001. The 2001 World Report was based on 29 country reports published on the FAIFE website in December 1999. Further information was added to these to eventually cover the status of libraries and intellectual freedom in 46 different countries. The report was launched at the IFLA conference in Boston in 2001.

The 2001 report looks very different to the 2003 and 2005 editions. Each country included in 2001 was accompanied by short factual information and statistics collected from various international sources and edited by the IFLA/FAIFE Office. Aside from this, the reports differed widely on content and length, each one a product of the individual contributor. Instructions were issued to concentrate on the following areas: the general situation concerning libraries, librarianship and intellectual freedom; specific cases, incidents or examples of challenges and censorship or other violations of intellectual freedom; legislation of relevance to libraries, librarianship and intellectual freedom; and library association positions and policies related to intellectual freedom including professional codes of conduct or ethics. Despite this, and understandably, the reports reflected a variety of approaches to address the general situation and specific problems in each country, with the contributor often choosing to concentrate on one or more of the suggested areas over the others.

Nevertheless, the reports produced important in depth information on intellectual freedom in the contributing countries, often with a historical overview of the state of the library services and relevant legislation. All contributions were treated with the necessary discretion and confidentiality and all information was evaluated with questionable facts or allegations directed at specific individuals or institutions verified by additional sources.

The content of country reports in the 2001 edition differed greatly, making comparisons country-by-country or region by region difficult. Evaluating the report in 2002, the IFLA/FAIFE editorial team recommended that future World Reports would gain by being based on factual information that would make comparisons and follow-up on developments in individual countries and regions easier. The use of questionnaires was identified as an appropriate working method combined with monitoring, reports and research of incidents and violations of intellectual freedom in individual countries.

### **Methodology of the World Report 2003**

The 2003 methodology was therefore the first time a questionnaire process had been used for the World Report. This method also allowed for a shorter production process safeguarding the topicality of the information provided by respondents. The questionnaires used were carefully drafted and pre-tested, and focused specifically on Internet access in the international library community, with a final section focusing on the adoption of codes of ethics and IFLA initiatives. The focus on Internet-related issues was a result of the questionnaire being part of

the data collection process for Stuart Hamilton's PhD project sponsored by IFLA/FAIFE and the Royal School of Library and Information Science in Copenhagen, Denmark entitled 'To what extent can libraries ensure that access to Internet-accessible information resources remains free, equal and unhampered, on a global scale?'

The 2003 World Report received responses from IFLA members in 88 different countries and provided a great deal of information regarding the spread of the Internet in the international library community. The questionnaires were sent as Microsoft Word documents via email to national library associations in each country where possible, followed by national libraries, IFLA institutional members and then individual members where the national library association was not contactable or did not exist. In all cases, senior library professionals were targeted to answer to the questionnaire.

The use of a questionnaire was a success, and respondents generally had few problems completing and returning it via email. There were, however, occasional problems in sending back the completed questionnaire as an attachment. Time and effort was spent writing emails explaining to a number of contacts how to correctly open the attachments and fill out the questionnaire. Questionnaires were also returned by fax, or scanned and then sent as an attachment. In these cases handwriting was sometimes difficult to interpret. Language was also understandably an issue. Resources to deal with French speaking African countries, for example, were simply not available, nor was it possible to translate the questionnaire into Russian or Chinese and responses back into English. Thanks to the help of a colleague in New York a Spanish translation was

eventually sent out to 22 Spanish-speaking countries and this helped increase the overall response rate.

Another problem was dealing with faulty email addresses and the constant search for an address that worked. The Internet offered the data collection process a number of advantages such as the ability to send the questionnaire instantly and cheaply to hundreds of potential respondents, but many of the addresses did not work and many of the countries included in the mail out suffered from telecommunications problems that impaired their ability to receive and send email. A large amount of time and effort was expended on following up contacts, finding new contacts and persuading people to participate in the exercise.

One of the major drawbacks to the World Report 2003 data collection process was the lack of time and resources needed to study third party sources regarding violations of intellectual freedom. It was hoped that resources would stretch to a monitoring capability in order to provide greater detail regarding violations of intellectual freedom but this was not the case. This led to an over-reliance on respondents to provide details of the intellectual freedom situation in their country - a state of affairs which produced a very small amount of useful information. As detailed further below, this situation was remedied this year by the addition of a research student to the work team, whose job it was study third party sources for information relevant to the country reports.

## Methodology of the 2005 World Report

Preparation for this year's data collection exercise

began in January 2005 when the design and structure of the questionnaire began to be developed. At its meeting in August 2004, the IFLA/FAIFE Committee had decided that the following key areas of focus would be examined:

- Anti-terror legislation and its effects on libraries after September 11th, 2001
- Libraries and social responsibilities, especially relating to provision of information about HIV/AIDS and women's literacy
- Libraries and Internet access
- Codes of ethics and IFLA policy implementation

While questions on Internet access, codes of ethics and IFLA policy initiatives followed up on areas of focus from 2003, the other subjects were new to the World Report. Questions on anti-terror legislation were included because at the IFLA Congress in Berlin in 2003, IFLA Council carried a resolution on national security legislation asking 'national library associations to respond on the matter to FAIFE'<sup>1</sup>. FAIFE received only two reports and at the Council meeting in Buenos Aires in 2003 and therefore stated that the effects of national security legislation would be included in the next IFLA/FAIFE World Report. The social responsibilities focus, meanwhile, is a result of the build up to IFLA's World Congresses in Seoul, South Korea and Durban, South Africa in 2006 and 2007, where women's issues and HIV and AIDS will be high on the agenda.

A preliminary version of the questionnaire was drafted and dispatched to a number of pre-testers and members of the FAIFE Committee for appraisal. The people involved were library professionals from dif-

ferent continents so as to judge the response of people from a variety of cultural and linguistic backgrounds. Useful recommendations for the development of the questionnaire were supplied that were then incorporated into the final version.

The exact nature of the questions were the results of discussions within the Office, consultation with Niels Ole Pors at the Royal School of Library and Information Science in Copenhagen, and input from Al Kagan, the convenor of the Social Responsibilities Discussion Group and FAIFE Committee member, Leena Siitonen, Chairperson of IFLA's Women's Issues Group, and Marc Lampson, a lawyer from the United States who has contributed a paper on the PATRIOT act to this report. A copy of the questionnaire can be found at the back of this report in the Appendix section.

### **The 2005 Questionnaire**

The first page of the 2005 questionnaire differed quite a lot from the 2003 version. In 2003 the responding institution remained anonymous and in the country reports only the name of the country was displayed. It was felt at the time that the anonymity this process gave might encourage respondents to reveal information that maybe they would hold back if they were named. This approach did not yield any extra information however and, following an evaluation meeting of the FAIFE editorial work team in 2003, it was decided to ask for the responding institution's name to add to the country report entry. It should be stressed though that the option of remaining anonymous was still open - but in the end this option was taken by only two respondents this year.

The other difference on the front page was the invitation to estimate the number of public and research libraries in the respondent's country. In 2003 respondents were asked to estimate the percentage of their public and research libraries offering Internet access but without the background (i.e. the number of libraries being referred to) information this response was deemed to be lacking something. This year, therefore, respondents could state the number of public libraries - defined as public library service points, including branch libraries - and research libraries - defined as the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities in their country. Not only would these answers give some context to the percentage of libraries in each country offering access to the Internet, but FAIFE could also take advantage of the data collection process to collect the most up to date statistics from IFLA members around the world relating to the size of a country's library service.

Moving on, questions 1 to 3 of the 2005 questionnaire were kept almost identical to the 2003 version in order to enable comparison and assess if Internet access had developed in the past two years. Question 1 asked respondents to estimate the percentage of public libraries and research libraries offering Internet access to users. Five levels of access were offered: 81-100%; 61-100%; 41-60%; 21-40% and less than 20%. Question 2a asked if the library association was in favour of filtering information on library terminals, while 2b asked if the actual use of filtering software was widespread in the country's libraries. Both questions allowed the respondent to answer 'Yes', 'Yes, to a certain degree' and 'No'. The final part of question 2 asked respondents who were in favour of filtering to any degree to list their motivations from the fol-

lowing list: Protection of children; national security (e.g. terrorism); safeguard religious values; safeguard national ethos/culture; crime (e.g. gambling); safeguard public morality. Respondents could choose as many or as few motivations as they wished. Question 3 finished the Internet focus by asking respondents if library Internet access is charged for and whether or not the state or other library authorities have made any funding available to increase the extent of Internet access within the country's library system. Respondents were given the choice of answering that all libraries offered free access, no libraries offered free access or either public libraries or research libraries separately offered free access.

Question 4 addressed user privacy and anti-terror legislation. It asked respondents if anti-terror legislation had been passed in their country that adversely affected library Internet users' intellectual freedom - such as allowing law enforcement agencies access to library user records. Text boxes were supplied for an answer rather than a tickbox for yes or no. Further sub-questions asked if respondents thought existing or proposed legislation impacted on user privacy, and if they thought keeping user records affected the freedom of expression of the individual Internet library user. This last question could be compared with a similar question regarding user privacy asked in 2003.

Question 5 asked the respondent to provide any examples of violations of intellectual freedom in their country in the past two years that might affect freedom of access to information or freedom of expression. Unlike in 2003, the options yes and no were not offered, and respondents were encouraged to write in

the textbox provided. There was also room to include references for further useful sources.

Question 6 addressed the first of the social responsibilities topics, HIV and AIDS. The first part of the question asked if libraries in the respondent's country had been involved in any programmes to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS, and to describe them if so. The second part asked if libraries in the respondent's country had made efforts to provide HIV/AIDS information to those unable to read and to provide details if they had.

Question 7 looked at women's access to information, asking if libraries in the respondent's country had any special programmes focusing on the promotion of women's literacy. Details were requested if the answer was affirmative. The second part of the question asked if libraries specifically promoted women's access to information on the following topics: social information; the economy; education; health; and family planning. Again, details were asked for if there were any.

Questions 8 to 10 concerned IFLA policy initiatives. Question 8 asked if there was an existing code of ethics in the country; if so, when it was adopted; and if so, how it was implemented in daily work. Questions 9 and 10 tackled the status of the IFLA Internet Manifesto and the Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom in a similar format.

As an aid to respondents, questions 1 to 7 contained brief descriptions of the topics they addressed to avoid confusion. Additionally, URLs for the Internet

Manifesto and the Glasgow Declaration were provided in questions 9 and 10.

### Distribution of Questionnaires

As in 2003, the targets for the finished questionnaire were being selected at the same time as the pre-testing was taking place. Contact details for all IFLA member countries were once again provided by IFLA Headquarters in The Hague, and the same process was followed as in 2003. It was decided that the ideal respondent to answer questions about the state of Internet access, intellectual freedom and social responsibilities within a country would be a senior member of the library association, preferably someone who dealt with these issues on a regular basis. If such a person were unable to be identified then the questionnaire would target a respondent at a country's national library. If this proved impossible then institutional IFLA members would be targeted, followed by personal affiliates for countries without any associations, national libraries or significant institutions.

Once more a preliminary letter was drafted explaining the process and rationale behind the questionnaire. The letter explained the role of the World Report series and the need to collect up to date information for the 2005 report, outlined the special areas of focus and informed the initial respondent that the questionnaire proper would be sent out in the coming days. It asked the recipient to identify a member of their organisation best placed to answer the questionnaire, preferably a senior figure with knowledge of the identified issues, if they were unable to do so themselves. Once again, a free copy of the report would be offered to 30 randomly selected respondents as an

incentive to take part in the data collection process. Finally, a deadline for completed questionnaires was stated.

Before the questionnaire was dispatched the preliminary letter was sent out (in English and Spanish) to 153 email addresses supplied by IFLA Headquarters. It was hoped that sending a mail beforehand would increase the chance of the respondent answering the questionnaire. The distribution and response process, however, did not run as smoothly in 2005 as it did in 2003. While the questionnaire received exposure on IFLA's website, and a process of reminders were sent out regularly via email, the questionnaires returned at a much slower rate than in 2003. Once again there were problems with the email addresses supplied by IFLA Headquarters, and many of the 153 addresses supplied for national associations, national libraries, institutional members and individual members were invalid (In the initial run there were sets of contact details for 93 countries with national associations were provided, 30 sets of details for national libraries, 24 sets for a main institution in countries not already covered and 6 sets for personal affiliates in countries without any associational or institutional members). Time was spent searching online for up to date addresses where they existed and daily emailing sessions became a feature of the process.

Following these problems the number of email addresses being used continued to grow as appeals were made to colleagues around the world to supply contact details of people who might be able to complete a questionnaire. In total, English and Spanish questionnaires were sent out over 350 email addresses between 7th March and the end of April 2005. Accompanying



emails were sent with each questionnaire containing full instructions on how to complete the form, along with a reminder for the form to be filled out by the best-placed person within the organisation to do so. The deadline for returning the questionnaires was moved several times to accommodate for the slow response rate. The initial deadline for completion of the forms was 31st of March but this was extended several times over to accommodate continuing failures with email addresses and also the mailing of a Spanish language questionnaire to countries that requested it. Half of the responses came back during May, and delivery of the final document to be accepted took place on 27th May 2005, nearly two months after the first proposed deadline.

### Questionnaire Responses

Region	Numbers of Countries responding	
	2005	2003
Africa	17	16
Asia	18	18
Europe	27	33
Latin America and the Caribbean	14	14
North America	2	2
Oceania	6	5

Table 1: Regional distribution of questionnaire responses, 2003 and 2005

As can be seen from Table 1, there is very little difference between the regional distribution of questionnaires in 2003 and 2005. There are six fewer countries contributing from Europe and one more from Africa and Oceania. The IFLA members from 25 countries who responded in 2003 but not in 2005 are the following:

- **Africa:** Chad, Gambia, Namibia, Niger, South Africa, Zimbabwe
- **Asia:** Armenia, Belarus, Iran, Kuwait, Macao, Thailand
- **Europe:** Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, France, Liechtenstein, Slovakia, Vatican City
- **Latin America and the Caribbean:** Belize, Bolivia, Guatemala, Panama, Uruguay, Venezuela

Equally, this year there were 21 contributors who did not reply in 2003, 14 of whom had not responded to the World Report before:

- **Africa:** Democratic Republic of Congo, Mauritius, Nigeria, The Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Zambia
- **Asia:** Israel, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Syria, Turkmenistan
- **Europe:** Spain, Romania
- **Latin America and the Caribbean:** Bahamas, Cuba, Ecuador, Jamaica, Nevis, Peru
- **Oceania:** Papua New Guinea

However, because of the 25 2003 contributors that are missing from this year's World Report a direct comparison in many areas of the report is very difficult. For example, being able to state the overall number of IFLA member countries who have now adopted the Internet Manifesto or Glasgow Declaration in light of the 2003 report is not possible. Despite this, attempts have been made in the Analysis chapter to discuss any change to the positions of those respondents who contributed in 2003 and 2005. There are new areas of focus in this report which cannot be compared with 2003 information - such as information on anti-terrorism legislation, HIV/AIDS awareness and women's literacy - and this information stands on its own.

When viewing the tables in the Analysis chapter that do place findings from 2003 in direct comparison with those from 2005, readers of the report are encouraged to compare the percentage of respondents indicating a certain choice with the knowledge that the geographical distribution of returned questionnaires is very similar to that in 2003. When looking at things overall therefore, a general comparison between the two reports is possible even if not all countries represented in 2003 are included in the 2005 report.

### **Drawbacks of the 2005 Questionnaire**

Compared to the 2003 data collection process, few respondents experienced problems completing the questionnaire. Many of those responding had been involved in 2003 and the structure of the questionnaire was in many ways similar. More detailed responses were received this year as respondents followed calls for more textual information and took advantage of the text fields in the questionnaire to add extra information in many areas. Compared with 2003 there were new questions however, and occasionally a comment was received along with a questionnaire return that raises issues for future data collection.

On the first page of the questionnaire respondents were asked to estimate the number of public library service points in their country, along with the number of research libraries. It was possible to tightly define public libraries as being 'All public library service points, including branch libraries'. Respondents this year had no problem with this definition and

statistics relating to the number of public libraries in a country were given accordingly. Research libraries, on the other hand, were more difficult to adequately define. In the 2003 World Report we defined research libraries as including 'the libraries of educational institutions' but respondents were not asked to enumerate the number of these in their country. This year, to enable comparison with 2003 data, we continued to use the term research libraries, despite some doubts, and after consultation with senior library professionals the definition 'Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions, such as schools and universities' was settled upon.

It must be reported that respondents had few problems giving a figure, sometimes very specific, in answer to this question. Some respondents however, declined to include school libraries on the ground that little research was done in them, and there was a general feeling that respondents answered this question quite subjectively. Nevertheless, the answers given provide context for estimates of Internet access in a country's libraries and often throw up pieces of information interesting to the reader.

Other respondents commented on the rigidity of Question 3 relating to the costs of Internet access in libraries. It appears that in some countries different levels of charging exist in public and research libraries, along with different sources for funding. The problems raised by respondents here could easily be solved by including space for a comment - thankfully those who had something extra to add often did so in an email accompanying the completed questionnaire.

Another problem worth noting relates to the issue

of anti-terror legislation which was tackled in Question 4. Question 4c asked 'Do you think that keeping user records affects the freedom of expression of the individual Internet library user?' A similar question was asked in 2003 when the report had a special focus on Internet access, and it was clear then that it was Internet use records being referred to. This year, while it was clear Question 4 was dealing with anti-terror legislation, it appears possible from the results (discussed in the Analysis chapter) that respondents may have been unsure as to how 'user records' should be interpreted. It could be that some respondents thought this meant user registration details that are kept as identification - names, addresses etc. The keeping of such records is essential for libraries maintaining membership lists and doing so should in no way interfere with user privacy. It is access to the records that is the issue post-9/11 and perhaps this was not clear enough in the question. Despite this ambiguity, the results to Question 4 make interesting reading.

### Additional Information

In the World Report 2003 resources for research on developments in intellectual freedom in the contributing countries were not available, and the report was primarily based on the results of the questionnaire from FAIFE. During the course of data analysis it became apparent that only 14 out of 88 countries had responded to the question on violations of intellectual freedom, perhaps because the question gave respondents a chance to tick 'yes' or 'no' to their existence. Following an evaluation process, it was believed that respondents did not receive enough encouragement to answer this question - while space was included

to detail violations of intellectual freedom should the respondent choose yes, it was felt that many respondents took the simple option of ticking no and moving on. Consequently, there was a perceived need for the 2005 questionnaire to address this issue and make sure information on violations of intellectual freedom were included in the final report.

Therefore a major change to the way data was collection for this year's report was the addition of an unpaid research student to the work team. As previously mentioned, the 2003 World Report was unable to add information from third-party sources to the country reports due to a lack of time and resources. Following an evaluation meeting in 2004 it was decided to recruit a research student from the Danish School of Library and Information Science, where the FAIFE Office is based, to spend time investigating information resources that might further describe the state of intellectual freedom in some of the contributing countries.

The research student, Maninider Kaur, was given a detailed brief. Research into countries would begin during the process of questionnaire distribution and collection, and would initially concentrate on the 88 countries that contributed to the 2003 World Report. Time and external circumstances - not least the slow pace for the return of questionnaires - caused some restrictions on the number of countries that could be covered and consequently the final focus settled on countries in Africa and Asia, and developing countries in general. It was hoped - justifiably in most cases - that respondents from North America, Europe and Oceania would respond to the Office's encour-

agement to complete the section in the questionnaire relating to violations of intellectual freedom.

One area has not been mentioned, and that is Latin America and the Caribbean. This is worth mentioning in regard to the sources studied during this part of the data collection process. The research student was instructed to look at reports and news from respected human rights organisations including, but not restricted to: Amnesty International, International Freedom of Expression Exchange (IFEX) and Human Rights Watch. Reports from UNESCO and the UN were also recommended for investigation. There were also information sources from organisations concerned with freedom of access to information and freedom of expression on the Internet to consider, such as European Digital Rights (EDRi), the OpenNet Initiative and Privacy International.

The sources examined were almost exclusively online. Using the Internet for this type of exercise has its advantages, in that it enables access to vast sums of information quickly and reliably. Using targeted search methods it was possible to access relevant reports and by subscribing to mailing lists new information and situations were kept abreast of. The nature of websites such as Google news, the BBC, or the intellectual freedom mailing lists provided by the American Library Association or IFEX, means that new reports are publicised almost as soon as they are released. Consequently the research student was able to stay up to date on intellectual freedom developments in our areas of focus.

All of these sources have two things in common. Firstly, they are free. Human rights organisations

have not gone over to pay-to-access subscription models and there is a large amount of topical content provided online for free including annual reports and reports into specific issues in a given country e.g. Internet access. The second commonality to all of the sources used was that they were in English. This greatly limits the pool of information available for the research. It restricts the viewpoint on examined areas to that of English speakers, and this, combined with the fact that the majority of regularly-published comment on information technology is from Northern America and Europe, means that a particular mindset towards certain issues of human rights, for example, is undoubtedly present in the sources for this research. Information on the state of intellectual freedom in Latin America has been hard to come by, and any information regarding the situation in Eastern Asia often has a 'western' interpretation. This is a complication of global scale research where limited resources mean that only one language is competently spoken by the researcher. On the other hand, the double-edged sword that is a lack of online content in the indigenous languages of Africa, has meant that the few information resources for the continent's countries have been open for examination.

### Statistical Indicators

This then, is one reason for the lack of extra information on certain countries in the world. Despite this, the report has been able to include additional information relating to violations of intellectual freedom for 38 countries included in the 2005 World Report. There is also additional information for every country in the World Report in the form of statistical indicators. As in 2003, the type of statistics found in each

country report included population figures, adult literacy rate, main language spoken and the percentage of people in the country able to use the Internet (Internet penetration). Population figures come from the United Nations Populations Prospects Database (<http://esa.un.org/unpp/>). The adult literacy rate is taken from the CIA World Factbook 2005 edition (<http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/>) and all rates are based on the most common definition - the ability to read and write at a specified age. The CIA World Factbook reproduces these figures from the latest available census in a given country. The main languages spoken in each country also come from the CIA World Factbook. Internet penetration figures have been obtained by dividing the number of Internet users within a country or region by the population figures - the most commonly used method of calculating Internet penetration. The number of Internet users in a country has been taken from the comprehensive database maintained by Internet World Stats (<http://www.internetworldstats.com/stats.htm>). Finally, for the purposes of regional breakdowns during the analysis, the United Nations Population Prospects Database has been used to define regions of the world.

## Presentation of results

To maintain consistency with the 2003 World Report, it was decided that each country report should consist of a summary of all information received, followed by specific answers to questions 4-10. Where necessary third party sources are clearly referenced to give the reader the option of learning more about topics such as anti-terror legislation or violations of intellectual freedom. In keeping with the 2003 and 2001 reports, a world map showing the location of the country is included at the beginning of each country report, and a more detailed map of the country is also included with statistical indicators such as population figures and literacy rate. In a change with the 2003 report, all information on Internet-related questions has been moved to the end of each country report to a separate statistical box which enables comparison, where possible, with 2003 and 2001 results. Most of the country reports are three pages long; a significant number are longer than this.

## Notes

- 1 World Library and Information Congress, 69th Congress Council Resolutions: <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla69/resolutions.htm>



## Country Reports

Introduction **A** Andorra, Angola, Aruba, Australia, Azerbaijan, **B** Bahamas, Belgium (Flanders), Benin, Botswana, **C** Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, **D** Democratic Republic of Congo, Denmark, **E** Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, **F** Fiji, Finland, **G** Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Guam, **H** Hong Kong (SAR of China), **I** Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, **J** Jamaica, Japan, **K** Kazakhstan, Kenya, **L** Latvia, Lithuania, **M** Macedonia, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, **N** Nepal, Netherlands, Netherlands Antilles (St Maarten), New Caledonia, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, **P** Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, **R** Romania, Russia, **S** Serbia and Montenegro, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, St Kitts and Nevis (Nevis), Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, **T** Tanzania, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkmenistan, **U** Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, Uzbekistan, **Z** Zambia



# Introduction

**Stuart Hamilton      &      Susanne Seidelin**

## Introduction

In this section, the 84 country reports are presented. The contributing countries cover all of the regions of the world and are distributed as follows: Africa: 17 countries; Asia: 18; Europe: 27; Latin America and the Caribbean: 14; North America: 2, and Oceania 6. Compared to the World Report 2003, 20 first time contributing countries are included and of the remaining 64 countries, 27 have contributed to all three volumes of the World Report. If we look at the total of country reports submitted for the years 2001, 2003 and 2005, reports from 111 of the 150 countries in which IFLA has members have been included in one or more of the three World Reports.

The data collection follows up on issues of the 2003 report and introduces new areas of concern. All contributors to the 2005 edition have responded to a questionnaire addressing the following issues: The Digital Divide such as Internet access in libraries, and filtering of Internet accessible information resources; National security legislation or anti-terrorism legislation; Social responsibilities exemplified by questions concerning libraries' involvement in raising awareness of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, and women's literacy issues; and finally the current situation regarding the adoption of codes of ethics and IFLA policies.

The methodology used for collecting information for each country report is as follows: First questionnaires were distributed to contacts at the national library association in a given country to complete. If a country did not have a national association then the national library was approached. If it was not possible to contact the national library then institutional members of IFLA, such as university libraries were contacted and finally, if this was not possible, individual members of IFLA present in a country were approached to fill out the questionnaire.

Our editorial policy allows authors to remain anonymous if they choose to be, so that the country reports become IFLA/FAIFE reports and authors who might be in danger will be protected. Also the editors reserve the right to verify, edit, and amplify the information received and, when appropriate, add information from other sources such as independent human rights organisations concerned with the intellectual freedom situation in a given country. Consequently the country reports are as accurate as we can make them.

For more in depth information we refer to the Methodology, and Analysis and Conclusions chapters.



### Responding institution: Andorra Biblioteca Nacional

Andorra is responding to the World Report for the second time. With 8 public libraries and 27 research libraries in the country serving a population of 67,000, Andorra is a small country well served with library resources. Based purely on this year's response, which is basic and contains little extra information, it seems that the overall climate for intellectual freedom in Andorra is good.

Overall Internet penetration is in Andorra up by 1% in the past two years, a slow rate of growth in such a small country. Since the 2003 response however, levels of access in the country's research libraries have gone from the lowest levels of access to the highest, with 81-100% of research libraries now providing Internet access for free. 81-100% of public libraries now provide access too, up from 61-80% in 2003. What is interesting to note is that while the library community in Andorra has not changed its position

on filtering, being to a degree in favour, it has listed another motivation behind this position. In 2003 filtering was considered in order to protect children and prevent criminal activity. These motivations remain in 2005, with an additional motivation towards safeguarding public morality - something which suggests that as Internet access increases library Internet users may have begun to look at pornographic materials. Whether this is true or not, the extent to which filtering software is actually used remains the same as in 2003 - to a degree widespread in the country's libraries.

Regarding the special areas of focus, the respondent indicates that libraries are untroubled by any effects of anti-terror legislation. Libraries in the country are not currently engaged in any activities to promote HIV/AIDS awareness or women's access to information.

Andorra's librarians do not have a code of ethics, and the profession has not adopted the Internet Manifesto or the Glasgow Declaration. There is no indication

as to whether these initiatives will be adopted in the next two years.

User privacy and anti-terror legislation

There has been no anti-terror legislation passed in the country that adversely affects libraries or their users. The respondent indicated the keeping of library user records does affect users’ freedom of expression.

Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years

There have been no reported violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years.

HIV/AIDS awareness

Libraries in Andorra have not been involved in promoting HIV/AIDS awareness.

Women and freedom of access to information

No libraries in Andorra have participated in

promoting women’s literacy or women’s access to information.

IFLA Internet Manifesto

The IFLA Internet Manifesto has not been adopted, and there is no indication as to whether it will be adopted in the next two years.

Ifla Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom

The Glasgow Declaration has also not been adopted, and again there is no indication as to whether it will be adopted in the next two years.

Ethics

Andorra’s library profession has not adopted a code of ethics. It is not indicated whether the next two years will see adoption of a code.

Main Indicators

Country Name:	Andorra
Population:	67,000
Main Language:	Catalan (official), French, Castilian, Portuguese
Literacy:	100% (Year not available)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition



### Libraries and Internet Access

The following section compares data and answers from 2005 with the 2003 IFLA/FAIFE World Report and adds context from respondent's estimates regarding numbers of public and research libraries.

Population Online: 36.6% (2003: 35.82%)

Estimated number of public libraries\*: 8

Average number of people served by each public library service point: 8375

Public libraries offering Internet access: 81-100% (2003: 61-80%)

Estimated number of research libraries\*\*: 27

Research libraries offering Internet access: 81-100% (2003: Less than 20%)

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: Yes, to a certain degree, motivated by a desire to protect children, prevent criminal activity and to safeguard public morality (2003: Yes, to a certain degree, in order to protect children and prevent criminal activity)

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: Yes, to a certain degree (2003: Yes, to a certain degree)

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: Yes, in research libraries only (2003: No)

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access in the library system in the last two years: Yes

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities



### **Responding institution: National Library of Angola**

Angola responded to the World Report for the first time in 2003. This year's response relates to the 26 public library service points in the country, and the research libraries, of which there are over 21. Based on the questionnaire response, the overall intellectual freedom situation facing Angola does not seem to be too bad, and third party sources, while noting human rights violations by police and soldiers, also recognise that continuing progress is being made in this area too.

Levels of Internet access in Angola are extremely low and may even have decreased since 2003. Overall Internet penetration figures provided by the CIA World Factbook showed penetration at 0.56% in 2003 - more recent figures compiled by Internet World Stats show current penetration to be running at 0.3%. Even for Africa this is a low level of Internet penetration and it is reflected in levels of access in libraries.

Less than 20% of both public and research libraries offer Internet access. While it appears that access will be unfiltered users will have to pay to go online. No state funding has been forthcoming 2001-2005 to change this situation.

Regarding the areas of special focus, libraries in Angola have not been affected by any anti-terror legislation recently passed, and no incidents or violations of intellectual freedom are reported. Libraries are not involved in activities that raise awareness of HIV/AIDS, and neither are they involved in programmes promoting women's literacy.

No information has been provided with regards to the actual or intentional adoption of a code of ethics, the IFLA Internet Manifesto or the Glasgow Declaration. However, in 2003 it was reported that none of these policies had been adopted but intentions were to adopt all in the next two years. Apparently, this has not happened.

### **User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

No anti-terror legislation that may affect library users' intellectual freedom has been passed in Angola and respondents do not believe that keeping user records would affect the freedom of expression of the individual library Internet user.

### **Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

As was the case in the 2003 report, no cases of violations of intellectual freedom are reported from Angola. In its annual report for 2005, Amnesty International mentions violations of human rights by police and soldiers and suppression of non-violent demonstrations. However, the work on the national plan of action on human rights supported by the UN continues and the UN Special Representative on Human Rights Defenders reports on improved respect for human rights but urges the government to be more open to civil society.

Source: Amnesty Report 2005:  
[www.amnesty.org/report2005/ago-summary-eng](http://www.amnesty.org/report2005/ago-summary-eng)

### **HIV/AIDS awareness**

Libraries in Angola have not been involved in any programmes to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS and no efforts have been made to provide information about HIV/AIDS to members of their communities unable to read.

### **Women and freedom of access to information**

Angolan libraries do not have special programmes focusing on the promotion of women's literacy and neither do they specifically promote women's access to information on social issues, finance, education, health or family planning.

### **IFLA Internet Manifesto**

No information has been provided with regards to the adoption of the Internet Manifesto or possible intentions of adoption within the next two years. However, in the 2003 World report, Angola reported on plans to adopt the Manifesto within the next two years.

### **Ifla Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom**

With regards to the adoption of the Glasgow Declaration, or the possible adoption within the next two years no information has been provided either. To compare, the Angolan response to the same question in 2003 indicated that the Declaration would be adopted within the next two years.

### **Ethics**

The questions regarding the adoption of a code of ethics, or plans to adopt such a code in the next two years have not been answered. It should be mentioned though that in the 2003 World Report Angola indicated that a code of ethics would be adopted in the next two years.

Whether the lack of adoption of a code of ethics and

the two IFLA policies is due to change of plans is not explained in the response from Angola.

### Libraries and Internet Access

The following section compares data and answers from 2005 with the 2003 IFLA/FAIFE World Report and adds context from respondent's estimates regarding numbers of public and research libraries.

Population Online:	0.3% (2003: 0.56%)
Estimated number of public libraries*:	26
Average number of people served by each public library service point:	569,321
Public libraries offering Internet access:	Less than 20% (2003: Less than 20%)
Estimated number of research libraries**:	More than 21
Research libraries offering Internet access:	Less than 20% (2003: Less than 20%)
Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals:	N/A (2003: Yes, to a certain degree (no motivation given))
Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries:	No (2003: No)
Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers:	2005: No (2003: No)
Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access in the library system in the last two years:	No

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities

### Main Indicators

Country Name:	Angola
Population:	15,941,000
Main Language:	Portuguese (official), Bantu and other African languages
Literacy:	42% (1998)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition







### Responding institution: Aruba National Library

Aruba responded to the World Report for the first time in 2003. The country has a very small library service, with one public library and one branch, and four research libraries. This year's response is quite simple, with little additional information and based purely on this it appears that intellectual freedom in the country is not currently under threat, although Internet filtering seems to be becoming more widespread.

There appears to have been quite a change in Internet conditions since the 2003 World Report. While the drop in overall Internet penetration (from 35.07% in 2003 to 24.2% in 2005) might be put down to differing ways of calculating user numbers, it is not possible to explain the questionnaire responses as individual differences of perception. The respondent and responding institution are the same as in 2003 so it would appear that e.g. the fall in the number of research institutions can be trusted. While both pub-

lic library service points in the country continue to offer Internet access, the 2005 response indicates that only 41-60% of research libraries are providing the Internet to users. This is down from 81-100% in 2003 and is a worrying development in a country with only four research libraries, although it may be that some consolidation has occurred. Other responses indicate a move to a more favourable position on filtering of Internet access, from 'in favour to a certain to degree' to a definite 'in favour'. The use of filtering software has likewise increased. A final notable change from 2003, to the advantage of library Internet users, is that it is now free to access the Internet in all libraries - perhaps as a result of increased funding in the past two years.

As was the case in 2003, no violations of intellectual freedom are reported, and no anti-terror legislation has been passed that might negatively impact on library users.

Regarding areas of special focus, libraries in Aruba are actively involved in promoting HIV/AIDS awareness - but unfortunately no details are provided. In the case of women's access to information, libraries are not involved in any programmes in this area.

Librarians in Aruba have no code of ethics at present but intend to adopt one in the next two years. Likewise, neither the Internet Manifesto nor the Glasgow Declaration have been adopted but these initiatives are also intended to be adopted in the next two years.

### **User privacy and anti -terror legislation**

No anti-terror legislation has been passed that from the point of view of the respondent adversely affects the intellectual freedom of library users. Some uncertainty exists regarding whether future legislation is likely to impact on user privacy, but the respondent did indicate that keeping user records does not affect the freedom of expression of the individual library Internet user.

### **Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

No incidents have occurred in the last two years that adversely affect freedom of access to information and freedom of expression in Aruba .

### **HIV/AIDS awareness**

Libraries in Aruba are actively involved in programmes that raise awareness of HIV/AIDS. Activi-

ties include exhibitions about HIV/AIDS, the provision of information for the AIDS awareness group and assistance to the group with regards to cataloguing their materials. Libraries in Aruba have not yet undertaken efforts to provide information to members of the community unable to read.

### **Women and freedom of access to information**

Libraries in Aruba are not involved with any programmes that specifically promote women's literacy, or women's access to information.

### **IFLA Internet Manifesto**

In 2003, it was reported that the Aruba Library Association would adopt the Internet Manifesto in the next two years. This year's response indicates the same position - the Manifesto has not been adopted since the last World Report and it is hoped that it will be adopted soon.

### **IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom**

The Glasgow Declaration has not been adopted, but the library community intends to do so in the next two years.

### **Ethics**

There is no code of ethics for Aruba's librarians, although the respondent indicates that one will be adopted in the next two years.

### Libraries and Internet Access

The following section compares data and answers from 2005 with the 2003 IFLA/FAIFE World Report and adds context from respondent's estimates regarding numbers of public and research libraries.

Population Online: 24.2% (2003: 35.07%)

Estimated number of public libraries\*: 2 (One main library, one branch)

Average number of people served by each public library service point: 49,500

Public libraries offering Internet access: 81-100% (2003: 81-100%)

Estimated number of research libraries\*\*: 4

Research libraries offering Internet access: 41-60% (2003: 81-100%)

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: Yes - motivated by a need to protect children from harmful materials, safeguard national culture and safeguard public morality (2003: Yes, to a certain degree motivated by a need to protect children from harmful materials and safeguard public morality)

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: Yes (2003: Yes, to a certain degree)

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: Yes, in all libraries (2003: No)

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access in the library system in the last two years: Yes

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities

### Main Indicators

Country Name: Aruba

Population: 99,000

Main Language: Dutch (official), Papiamentu (a Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch, English dialect), English (widely spoken), Spanish

Literacy: 97% (No date)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition





### **Responding institution: Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA)**

Australia contributed to the World Report in 2001 and 2003. The report refers to the 513 public library organisations (with 1510 library locations) and the 8,150 research libraries (with 9200 library locations) in the country. The respondent indicated no violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years, and it would appear that access to information in Australia is in a healthy state. However, additional sources did reveal some issues of interest, including affects on press freedom from post 9/11 legislation and also moves to regulate certain Internet resources.

Overall Internet penetration in Australia now stands at 67.5% - an increase from 54.4% in 2003. The levels of Internet access in Australia's libraries have remained the same since the last World Report - 81-100% of both public and research libraries are offering the Internet to their users. While the library association is not in favour of filtering software it

is to some degree widespread in the library system. Where it is found in public libraries it is used to manage resources and costs and the same can be said about filtering in schools, including school libraries, although protection of children is also an issue there. There is filtering in universities, mainly to eliminate spam and to manage costs. While the Internet is free to use in research libraries it appears that there is still a small charge for public library users.

Regarding the two remaining special areas of focus, Australian libraries have not, at this point, been involved in any programmes to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS in the community. Neither have they promoted women's literacy or access to information in any specific way.

As reported in the 2003 report, it is ALIA's policy not to formally adopt IFLA documents but instead to incorporate their ideals into existing policies. To this end the Internet Manifesto and the Glasgow Decla-

ration have not been adopted, but their ideas are promoted by the library association.

### **User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

The Australian response indicated that no anti-terror legislation has been passed in the country that directly affects libraries. The respondent does not believe that the keeping of user records affects library user's freedom of expression but does point out that there is a risk that future anti-terror legislation will impact user privacy.

Information from third party sources does suggest that legislation passed in the aftermath of 9/11 is having an adverse effect on freedom of access to information. According to the report "Turning up the Heat: The Decline of Press Freedom in Australia 2001-2005", released by the MEAA (Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance), legislation in the country introduced from 2001 to 2005 has had a negative impact on press freedom and human rights in Australia by putting limits on the ability of journalists and researchers to gather information. The co-author of the report, Christopher Warren, said that the balance had tipped in favour of security investigations and law enforcement agencies, including the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation. Anti-terror legislation in general was restricting and putting pressure on the general public's rights to press freedom and general democratic values.

Source: Australian IT, 11 May 2005:  
[australianit.news.com.au/articles/0,7204,15241232%5E15306%5E%5Enbv%5E,00.html](http://australianit.news.com.au/articles/0,7204,15241232%5E15306%5E%5Enbv%5E,00.html)

### **Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

At the "Digital Amnesia" seminar arranged by the Australian Library and Information Association in April 2005, the access and management of government publications online was addressed. This is an issue that Australia is not alone in facing as librarians all over the world are having to learn to deal with digital preservation issues. In Australia though, the deficiency of national standards in the country on how to preserve web-based material has made tracking down government reports on the web a growing problem. The problems arise when reports are made unavailable when removed or relocated on the web without redirecting, causing great concern to researchers and librarians.

Also concerned with the Internet, the Sydney Morning Herald reported in May 2005 that a bipartisan Australian Senate committee had backed a government bill introducing penalty for anyone using the internet to access, transmit or make material available that counsels or incites suicide. Opponents of the bill believe that the law would result in making online purchase of a book on euthanasia illegal, but enable the legal sale of the same book on sale at a newsagent. Some senators are claiming the bill is another attempt to increase censorship on the internet, making it an offence to merely discuss voluntary euthanasia online on e.g. in forums or chat groups and resulting in negative consequences for the freedom of expression on the Internet. At the time of writing the current status of the bill is unclear.

Sources: The Sydney Morning Herald, 13 May 2005:  
[www.smh.com.au/news/Breaking/Inquiry-backs-](http://www.smh.com.au/news/Breaking/Inquiry-backs-)

internet-suicide-ban/2005/05/13/1115843348071.html?oneclick=true  
 IFEX Communiqué vol. 14 no. 18, 3 May 2005:  
[www.indexonline.org/en/indexindex/articles/2005/2/australia-press-freedom-reduced-since-septem.shtml](http://www.indexonline.org/en/indexindex/articles/2005/2/australia-press-freedom-reduced-since-septem.shtml)

### **HIV/AIDS awareness**

Libraries in Australia have not been involved in any programmes to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS awareness.

### **Women and freedom of access to information**

Likewise, Australia's libraries have not been involved in efforts to promote women's literacy or access to information.

### **IFLA internet manifesto**

ALIA has not adopted the Internet Manifesto. Rather than formally adopting it, it is referred to in the related ALIA policies including ALIA's Statement on Online Content Regulation and Statement on Free Access to Information; reported in articles in In-

Cite, the Association's monthly news magazine and through relevant meetings and groups of members.

### **IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom**

As with the Internet Manifesto, the library association has not formally adopted the Glasgow Declaration. Instead it has been reported in articles in InCite, the Association's monthly news magazine and through relevant meetings and groups of members.

### **Ethics**

ALIA adopted a code of ethics in 1977. Individual libraries and library staff refer to the code and other ALIA policy statements when developing internal library policies or to support their advocacy relating particular service or organisational issues. ALIA members (personal and institutional) undertake to observe the constitution of the Association, including ALIA's first objective: "To promote the free flow of information and ideas in the interests of all Australians and a thriving culture, economy and democracy".

### Libraries and Internet Access

The following section compares data and answers from 2005 with the 2003 IFLA/FAIFE World Report and adds context from respondent's estimates regarding numbers of public and research libraries.

Population Online: 67.5% (2003: 54.4%, 2001: 43.94%)

Estimated number of public libraries\*: 513 public library organisations with 1510 library locations

Average number of people served by each public library service point: 13,348

Public libraries offering Internet access: 81-100% (2003: 81-100%)

Estimated number of research libraries\*\*: 8,150 research libraries with 9200 library locations

Research libraries offering Internet access: 81-100% (2003: 81-100%)

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: No (2003: No)

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: Yes, to a certain degree in order to protect children (2003: No)

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: Yes, in research libraries only (2003: Access to the Internet was free in many libraries but some public libraries were charging a small fee)

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access in the library system in the last two years: Yes

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities

### Main Indicators

Country Name: Australia

Population: 20,155,000

Main Language: English, native languages

Literacy: 100% (1980)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition







**Responding institution: Azerbaijani Library Development Association (AzLA)**

Azerbaijan is contributing to the World Report for the second time. The response is referring to the estimated 4293 public library service points and 5000 research libraries in the country. The report received this year is very detailed and contains good information on the intellectual freedom situation in the country. While it seems that a closed stack policy still exists in some libraries of the country the respondent points out that increased Internet access is providing library users with a lot of opportunities in terms of freedom of access to information. Freedom of information laws are currently being discussed in the country, which may impact on any restrictions that still exist to accessing information and perhaps end the closed stacks. As detailed below however, there are reports that passing these laws is proving difficult in the face of resistance from the state, and that the media situation is of concern.

Internet access has improved in Azerbaijan since the 2003 World Report. Internet penetration has increased from 0.32% to 3.6% and this rise is reflected in library Internet access - 21-40% of public libraries and 41-60% of research libraries now offer access, more than in 2003. Another welcome change from 2003 is that accessing the Internet is now free in all libraries where previously it was charged for. Regarding filtering, the library association is in favour to a certain degree of filtering but, as the respondent points out, Azerbaijan has only recently begun to adopt the Internet and filtering software - "Filtering software has not hit the Azerbaijani market yet. The Internet is just entering the daily lives of Azeris. There is a long way to go in terms of educating both adults and children about the benefits of Internet access. Because of a lack of experience and knowledge of what social and intellectual capital they can earn through the use of the Internet, some people are tempted to use it for entertainment purposes including access to computer games and sometimes porn sites. It mostly happens in Internet cafes and not in the libraries. Libraries

don't experience any problems with an improper use of the Internet yet but using filtering software for e.g. protecting children or safeguarding public morality in future will be helpful." Consequently, use of filtering software it is not yet widespread in the country's library system.

Regarding the special focus areas of the 2005 World Report, the respondent states that no anti-terror legislation has been passed that adversely affects library users' freedom of expression. Libraries have been involved in HIV/AIDS awareness, and programs are running in the country in co-operation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Ministry of Health. These programs will in future include efforts to supply information to users who cannot read but at present this part of the population is small. Women's access to information is being tackled in Azerbaijan through programs focussing on computer technology to improve literacy. The respondent points out that it is specially focused groups for women, often NGOs, that are involved in these efforts and that they are not really for the general public.

The Azerbaijan Library Development Association has adopted a code of ethics and both the Internet Manifesto and the Glasgow Declaration, although the library community is just beginning to implement the policies into their daily work.

### **User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

Azerbaijan reported no existing anti-terror legislation that affects library users and was unsure if any future legislation would impact on user privacy. The

respondent indicated that they did not think keeping user records affects freedom of expression. The respondent also stated that there might have been a case in the past where user records were sought out, but it was not in connection with anti-terrorism and more in connection of trying to access forbidden literature that was anti-governmental or 'politically-incorrect'.

### **Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

There have been no incidents that would adversely affect freedom of access to information or freedom of expression in the libraries. However, the fact that most of the libraries in Azerbaijan still have closed stacks and, although 'Glavlit' has been abolished and information access is not censored, there are still some materials with limited or no access in the libraries. Because this practice has been in existence in Azerbaijan for quite a long time the patrons are used to these kind of limitations. In this sense, access to the Internet provides a lot of opportunities in terms of free access to information.

The situation with freedom of access to information in other areas is a little more complicated. The following links provide a little more detailed information on the matter:

The law of Azerbaijan republic on information, informatisation and protection of information adopted in 1998

[www.azfreespeech.org/cgi-bin/e-cms/vis/vis.pl?s=001&p=0025&n=000001&g=](http://www.azfreespeech.org/cgi-bin/e-cms/vis/vis.pl?s=001&p=0025&n=000001&g=)

Azerbaijan Free Speech Foundation web site:

[www.azfreespeech.org](http://www.azfreespeech.org)

Jan van Schagen, 'Written analysis of two alternative Azerbaijani draft laws on Freedom of information'. Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe. The Representative on Freedom of the Media Strasbourg, 6 September 2004. ATCM(2004)025 [www.osce.org/documents/rfm/2004/09/3583\\_en.pdf](http://www.osce.org/documents/rfm/2004/09/3583_en.pdf)

The Draft Law on Freedom of Information is being discussed:

[unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/UNTC/UNPAN016969.pdf](http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/UNTC/UNPAN016969.pdf)

IFES International Freedom of Expression Exchange on a law of Freedom of Information in Azerbaijan [www.ifex.org/en/content/view/full/62350](http://www.ifex.org/en/content/view/full/62350)

International Research and Exchange Board. Independent media.

Media Sustainability Index 2003. Azerbaijan. [www.irex.org/msi/2003/MSI03-Azerbaijan.pdf](http://www.irex.org/msi/2003/MSI03-Azerbaijan.pdf)

International Research and Exchange Board. Independent media.

Media Sustainability Index 2002. Azerbaijan. [www.irex.org/msi/2002/country/Azerbaijan.pdf](http://www.irex.org/msi/2002/country/Azerbaijan.pdf)

### Additional information

In the "Under Lock and Key, Freedom of Information and the media in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia" report by Article 19, the situation of press freedom in Azerbaijan was described as the worst in the 3 counties. The authorities in Azerbaijan are resisting the adoption of an advanced freedom of information law, making it difficult for researchers, journalists as well as the general public to access information. The

media is also dominated by increasing state controls through restrictive laws, banning sales of opposition newspapers, inaccuracy in reporting and media blackmail. Additionally the media is constrained by harsh editorial control by owners and along with the high cost of paper, high taxes and limited advertising markets, the publishers experience economic pressures which make it difficult for the Azeri media to function.

Public bodies in the country are often criticized for being reluctant to responding to information requests and the politicisation of the media as well as the political polarization creates a situation where information is granted or denied based on political loyalty or rivalry. The increased harassments and threats against journalists and publishers add to the concern for the press freedom as well as for a growing self-censorship in the country.

### Sources:

Article 19, April 2005: Under Lock and Key, Freedom of Information and the media in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.

[www.ifex.org/download/en/UnderLock&Key.pdf](http://www.ifex.org/download/en/UnderLock&Key.pdf)

Article 19, Newsletter Spring 2005:

[a19.sylaba.pl/uploads/media/ARTICLE\\_19\\_Newsletter\\_Spring\\_2005.pdf](http://a19.sylaba.pl/uploads/media/ARTICLE_19_Newsletter_Spring_2005.pdf)

Reuters Alertnet, 9 Apr 2005:

[www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L09681402.htm](http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L09681402.htm)

### HIV/AIDS awareness

The programs on HIV/AIDS awareness are mostly carried out by specialized medical libraries in cooperation with a Ministry of Health of Azerbaijan but

they target a general public including people of different age groups and background. The library association is planning to work with the Ministry of Health, UNDP in Azerbaijan and a national medical library to adapt this initiative on raising the awareness of AIDs/HIV in public libraries as well.

Some important information on AIDS/HIV awareness and prevention in Azerbaijan:

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria has allocated a \$6.5 million grant to Azerbaijan for two years (2004-2006). As well as this, since 2002 the UNDP has been implementing a project entitled "Strengthening capacities of the civil society in response to HIV/AIDS". The project aims at empowering various segments of the civil society in response to HIV/AIDS - specifically in designing and implementing HIV/AIDS prevention activities and in facilitating multi-sectoral dialogues on HIV-related issues. Dialogue with religious organizations in Azerbaijan, which are part of civil society, started back in 2003 at a UNDP-initiated round table organized jointly with the State Committee on Work with Religious Associations and attended by representatives of all major faiths registered in Azerbaijan. Based on the conclusions of the round table, UNDP, with financial support from the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), launched a pilot project to empower religious leaders of different confessions to carry out HIV prevention in communities... More at [www.gateway.az/cgi-bin/cl2\\_gw/item.cgi?lang=en&item=20050402122819800](http://www.gateway.az/cgi-bin/cl2_gw/item.cgi?lang=en&item=20050402122819800)

Azerbaijan Red Crescent Health Programme/HIV/AIDS Project: [www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/annual05/logframes/Europe/05AA068HIVAIDS.pdf](http://www.ifrc.org/docs/appeals/annual05/logframes/Europe/05AA068HIVAIDS.pdf)

## **Women and freedom of access to information**

There is quite a low percentage of people who are unable to read in Azerbaijan, and it is mostly a population of refugees who have been displaced as a result of a conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorny Karabakh (around 5-7% of 8.5 million total population). These people are not active library users. Future efforts on working with community members and reaching out to these people are included in a plan of action of the libraries.

Regarding literacy, information literacy (including computer/technology literacy) is a focus of literacy programs in Azerbaijan. Just few libraries, mostly the ones who have strong technological capacity (through grant support) and expertise of staff member, have had some programmes on promoting information literacy for women. Mostly these women belong to women-oriented NGOs and grass roots organizations, and these programs were tailored according to their specific needs, and not for a general public as whole.

## **IFLA Internet Manifesto**

The Internet Manifesto has been adopted and is in the process of implementation into the daily work of libraries at the time of writing.

## **IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom**

Like the Internet Manifesto, the Glasgow Declaration has been adopted and is in the process of being implemented into daily work.

## Ethics

The Azerbaijan Library Association adopted a code of ethics in 2003. The respondent indicated that while

the libraries have become acquainted with it and use it as guidelines, it is unsure if it is completely included in official association policy

## Libraries and Internet Access

The following section compares data and answers from 2005 with the 2003 IFLA/FAIFE World Report and adds context from respondent's estimates regarding numbers of public and research libraries.

Population Online: 3.6% (2003: 0.32%)

Estimated number of public libraries\*: 4293

Average number of people served by each public library service point: 1959

Public libraries offering Internet access: 21-40% (2003: Less than 20%)

Estimated number of research libraries\*\*: 5000

Research libraries offering Internet access: 41-60% (2003: Less than 20%)

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: Yes, to a certain degree in order to protect children and safeguard public morality (2003: No)

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: No (2003: No)

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: Yes, in all libraries (2003: No)

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access in the library system in the last two years: No

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities

## Main Indicators

Country Name: Azerbaijan

Population: 8,411,000

Main Language: Azerbaijani (Azeri) 89%, Russian 3%, Armenian 2%, other 6% (1995 est.)

Literacy: 97% (1989)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition





### Responding institution: The Bahamas Library Service

This is the Bahamas' first contribution to the World Report. The questionnaire response relates to the 30 public library service points and 90 research libraries in the country. No anti-terror legislation that would adversely affects library users' intellectual freedom has been passed in the Bahamas and no violations of freedom of access to information have been reported. As the Bahamas is contributing for the first time, it is therefore difficult to paint a picture of the state of art of freedom of access to information and freedom of expression in the country.

Regarding Internet access, 26% of the population are online in the Bahamas and the levels of Internet access in the libraries are very respectable. 61-80% of both public and research libraries are able to offer the Internet to their users but access is not yet free. While the library service is to a degree in favour of filtering

access, the use of filtering software in the libraries is not widespread.

Regarding other focus areas, libraries in the Bahamas are involved in programmes that raise awareness of HIV/AIDS. These programmes have been extended to help members of the community unable to read. Libraries are not involved in programmes focusing on the promotion of women's literacy, but they specifically promote women's access to information on social issues, financial matters, education, health and family planning.

The library association has not adopted a code of ethics, the IFLA Internet Manifesto or the Glasgow Declaration but intends to do so in the next two years.

### User privacy and anti-terror legislation

No anti-terror legislation that would adversely affect library users' intellectual freedom has been passed in Bahamas, and if such legislation should be passed



the respondent does not think it would impact on user privacy. Neither does the respondent consider the keeping of user records to affect the freedom of expression of the library Internet user.

**Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

No incidents that adversely affect freedom of access to information and freedom of expression have occurred in the Bahamas in the last two years, and no information resources that might further explain the situation facing freedom of access to information have been listed.

**HIV/AIDS awareness**

Libraries in the Bahamas are involved in activities such as library exhibitions to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS. Efforts have been made to provide HIV/AIDS information to members of the community unable to read but these were not detailed in the response.

**Women and freedom of access to information**

Libraries do not have special programmes focusing on the promotion of women's literacy, but they have specifically promoted women's access to information on issues such as health or family planning by issuing brochures and pamphlets from health and family life centres and officers.

**IFLA Internet Manifesto**

The IFLA Internet Manifesto has not been adopted but the library association intends to adopt it in the next two years.

**Ifla Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom**

The Glasgow Declaration has not been adopted either, but again there are intentions are to adopt it in the next two years.

**Ethics**

A code of ethics has not been adopted but intentions are to do so in the next two years.



### Libraries and Internet Access

This is the Bahamas' first contribution to the World Report Series.

Population Online:	26%
Estimated number of public libraries*:	30
Average number of people served by each public library service point:	10,766
Public libraries offering Internet access:	61-80%
Estimated number of research libraries**:	90
Research libraries offering Internet access:	61-80%
Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals:	Yes, to a certain degree in order to protect children, safeguard religious values, safeguard national culture and safeguard public morality
Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries:	No
Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers:	No
Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access in the library system in the last two years:	No

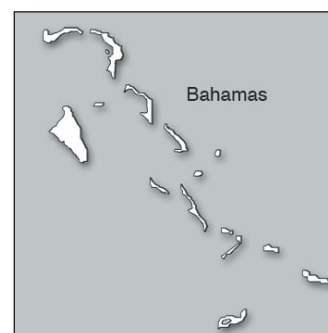
Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities

### Main Indicators

Country Name:	Bahamas
Population:	323,000
Main Language:	English (official), Creole (among Haitian immigrants)
Literacy:	95.6% (2003)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition





## Belgium (Flanders)

### **Responding institution: Flemish Libraries Society (VVBAD)**

The answers in this country report refer to the Flanders region of Belgium which has responded to the World Report in 2001 and 2003. This means that this response refers to 305 public libraries and 148 research libraries. Based purely on the questionnaire response, the Flanders region appears to suffer no problems affecting library users' freedom of access to information - no violations of intellectual freedom have been reported in the last two years.

Internet access in Flanders' libraries remains very healthy. 81-100% of both public and research libraries offer Internet access and it is now free in all libraries. The notable change from the 2003 response is that the library association has moved towards a toleration of filtering software in libraries in order to protect children. This means that the use of filtering is now widespread to an extent in the region's libraries.

It is difficult to tell more about the situation in Flanders' libraries, especially with regard to the special areas of focus and the implementation of IFLA initiatives. It was indicated that no anti-terrorism legislation has been passed that adversely affects library users, and the respondent did think that keeping user records impacted in users' freedom of expression. There was also an indication that libraries in the region had not been involved in HIVD/AIDS awareness programs. Unfortunately however, there are no answers for questions on HIV/AIDS and those members of the community unable to read, and no answers regarding initiatives on women's literacy or access to information. There are also no indications regarding the status of the Internet Manifesto or the Glasgow Declaration but the 2003 response did show that librarians in Flanders were planning to adopt the initiatives in last two years. The Flemish Library Society has adopted a code of ethics.

## User privacy and anti-terror legislation

There has been no anti-terror legislation passed in Flanders that adversely affects libraries or their users. The respondent indicated the keeping of library user records does affect users' freedom of expression.

## Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years

There have been no reported violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years.

## HIV/AIDS awareness

Libraries in Flanders have not been involved in promoting HIV/AIDS awareness.

## Women and freedom of access to information

No answers were given for this question. The re-

spondent indicated that it was not possible to comment on all questions due to deadline issues.

## IFLA Internet Manifesto

No Answers. The respondent indicated that it was not possible to comment on all questions due to deadline issues.

## IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom

No Answers. The respondent indicated that it was not possible to comment on all questions due to deadline issues.

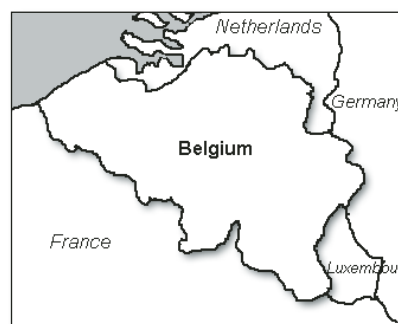
## Ethics

VVBAD adopted a code of ethics for public libraries in 1994, and a code for archives in 1997.

### Main Indicators

Country Name:	Belgium
Population:	10,419,000 (6,016,024 in Flanders)
Main Language:	Dutch (official) 60%, French (official) 40%, German (official) less than 1%, legally bilingual (Dutch and French)
Literacy:	98% (Year not available)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition



### Libraries and Internet Access

The following section compares data and answers from 2005 with the 2003 IFLA/FAIFE World Report and adds context from respondent's estimates regarding numbers of public and research libraries.

Population Online: 48.9% (Belgium in total) (2003: 37% (Belgium in total)) (2001: 26.36% (Belgium in Total))

Estimated number of public libraries*:	306 (in Flanders)
Average number of people served by each public library service point:	19,600 (in Flanders)
Public libraries offering Internet access:	81-100% (2003: 81-100%)
Estimated number of research libraries**:	148 (in Flanders)
Research libraries offering Internet access:	81-100% (2003: 81-100%)

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals:	Yes, to a certain degree, to protect children (2003: No)
Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries:	Yes, to a certain degree (2003: No)
Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers:	Yes, in all libraries (2003: Yes, in all public libraries)

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access in the library system in the last two years: No

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities



### Responding institution: n/a

Benin responded to the World Report for the first time in 2003. The estimated number of public library service points is 51, and the number of research libraries 21.

Based on the Benin questionnaire response it would seem that intellectual freedom is currently in a relatively good state in the country as no violations were reported in 2003 or in 2005. However, as stated, libraries are confronted every day with the consequences of a lack of staff and economic resources and this does indeed affect easy access to information in Benin as well as in other developing countries.

In the summary it must be mentioned that very little has changed since the 2003 situation regarding Internet access. Two years ago there were indications that installation of the Internet were rapidly developing mainly thanks to private sector initiatives to open net cafes in the big cities. In 2005 though the overall

penetration has only increased by a tiny amount and no funding has been made available by the state or library authorities for four years now.

Regarding areas of special focus, Benin's libraries have not been involved in promoting HIV/AIDS awareness or women's access to information in any way.

In 2003 there existed some uncertainty as to whether or not Benin had adopted a code of ethics, the IFLA Internet Manifesto and the Glasgow Declaration. In 2005, the response clearly indicates that this is not the case. The question concerning possible intentions to adopt the declaration and the manifesto in the next two years has not been answered however, and there are no plans to adopt a code of ethics.

### User privacy and anti-terror legislation

Anti-terror legislation that may affect the intellectual freedom of library users has not been passed in Benin. Also, it is not considered to affect the freedom

of expression of the individual library Internet user to keep user records.

### **Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

No significant events have occurred that affect information access. The daily problem in Benin - as well as in other developing countries - is the insufficiency of the available budget. In university libraries, lack of sufficient staff means that students have to spend hours of waiting to get the books they have ordered, and that books are only available in few copies, e.g. five copies to be shared by 1000 students. "The daily situation does not allow easy access to information", the Benin response concludes.

### **HIV/AIDS awareness**

Libraries in Benin have not been involved in programmes that raise awareness of HIV/AIDS, and neither have they made efforts to provide HIV/AIDS information to members of their communities unable to read.

### **Women and freedom of access to information**

There appears to be no special library programmes focusing on the promotion of women's literacy and no library activities that specifically promote

women's access to information on social issues, finance, education, health or family planning.

### **IFLA Internet Manifesto**

In the 2003 World Report, there existed some uncertainty as to whether or not the library association has adopted the Internet Manifesto. In 2005, the response clearly indicates that this is not the case, and the question regarding intentions to adopt the Manifesto in the next two years has not been answered.

### **IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom**

The situation regarding the adoption of the Glasgow Declaration is similar. In the 2003 World Report, there was uncertainty as to whether or not the library association had adopted the declaration. However, the response in 2005 clearly indicates that this is not the case, and the question concerning possible intentions to adopt the declaration in the next two years has not been answered.

### **Ethics**

As was the case in 2003, a code of ethics has not been adopted and there are no plans to do so in the next two years.

### Libraries and Internet Access

The following section compares data and answers from 2005 with the 2003 IFLA/FAIFE World Report and adds context from respondent's estimates regarding numbers of public and research libraries.

Population Online: 08. % (2003: 0.37%)

Estimated number of public libraries\*: 51

Average number of people served by each public library service point: 156,471

Public libraries offering Internet access: Less than 20% (2003: Less than 20%)

Estimated number of research libraries\*\*: 21

Research libraries offering Internet access: Less than 20% (2003: Less than 20%)

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: No (2003: No)

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: No (2003: No)

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: No (2003: No)

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access

in the library system in the last two years: No

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities

### Main Indicators

Country Name: Benin

Population: 8,439,000

Main Language: French (official), Fon and Yoruba (most common vernaculars in south), tribal languages (at least six major ones in north)

Literacy: 40.9% (2000)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition







## Botswana

### Responding institution: Botswana Library Association

Botswana responded to the World Report for the first time in 2003. The estimated number of public library service points is 23, and the number of research libraries 256. Based on the response of the library association intellectual freedom seems in a good state in the country as no violations were reported neither in 2003 nor in 2005. However, additional information received on Botswana's security law provides a more complex picture and it would appear that the national security legislation detailed below could have real implications for the free flow of information - and access to it - in the country.

Regarding the Internet, the answers given in 2005 challenge those made in 2003. For example, it appears from the 2003 results that access was free in public libraries only; in 2005 it is in research libraries only. It is tempting to surmise that public libraries have started charging to cover costs. Also, it appears that

levels of access in research libraries have fallen from 61-80% in 2003 to 41-60% in 2005. It is difficult to pinpoint reasons for this although, as ever, respondent perceptions on the level of access or the number of research libraries in the country may come into it. Both World Report responses came from the library association but different individuals were involved. Elsewhere, reasons for filtering have broadened to include safeguarding national culture and protecting public morality. Funding has been made available for increased access 2003-2005 - it was not made available 2001-2003.

Regarding areas of special focus, Botswana's libraries are actively involved in promoting HIV/AIDS awareness and programmes are extended to members of the community unable to read. There are not currently special programmes focusing on the promotion of women's literacy.

Botswana Library Association adopted a code of ethics in 2002. In the last two years it has been imple-

mented and promoted. The professional values have been the basis for the development of a national ICT policy and for the association's contribution to national submission to the World Summit on the Information Society process. As was the case in 2003, the association intends to adopt the IFLA Internet Manifesto in the next two years. There is no information about the Glasgow Declaration but in 2003 it was reported that it had been adopted.

### **User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

Although the respondent indicated that anti-terror legislation that would adversely affect library users' intellectual freedom has not been passed in Botswana, third party sources suggest that legislation exists which hinders access to information and press freedom. According to IFEX, Botswana's ruling party has cited the 'global fight against terrorism' in its rejection of calls to abolish little-used national security legislation which the Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA) says is "draconian" and hinders access to information and press freedom. MISA Botswana says the legislation stifles press freedom by forbidding any person from publishing official information without authorisation, and barring media from reporting on Botswana's military. Since it came into law, the Act has been used to charge seven people, including University of Botswana Professor Kenneth Good. Good, an Australian citizen, fought a deportation order after President Festus Mogae declared in a February 2005 affidavit that Good was a "prohibited immigrant" and a threat to national security. The order came after Good gave a lecture at the university that criticised Mogae and the state of democracy in the country. The Botswana library

association is currently following up this issue during the new executive committee's term of office.

Source: IFEX, 19 April, 2005:  
[www.ifex.org/en/content/view/full/66072/](http://www.ifex.org/en/content/view/full/66072/)

### **Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

It is indicated in the questionnaire response that no incidents that adversely affect freedom of access to information and freedom of expression have occurred in Botswana in the last two years. However, third party reports do indicate that there do exist worries in the country. According to the World Press Freedom Review of 2004, Botswana is today cited as one of the African countries that allows the most press freedom compared to the rest of the continent. This is even though authorities still keep the media under tight control, making it difficult for independent media in the country to function. The small independent press is under pressure in the form of censorship and media workers are often harassed and threatened, leading to self-censorship and setbacks for freedom of knowledge. In April 2005 the All Africa Network reported on journalists in Botswana criticising the government for retaining the National Security Act (see above) which restricts the free flow of information. According to MISA (Media Institute of Southern Africa) the act, which was introduced at the height of apartheid in the 1980's under circumstances which no longer apply in the country, stifles journalism and affects freedom of press and access to information in the country.

Sources:  
 All Africa - UN Integrated Regional Information

Networks (Nairobi), 13 April 2005:  
<http://allafrica.com/stories/200504130777.html>  
IPI, World Press Freedom Review 2004:  
[www.freemedia.at/wpfr/Africa/botswana.htm](http://www.freemedia.at/wpfr/Africa/botswana.htm)

HIV/AIDS awareness

Libraries are actively involved in almost all programmes in the country that raise awareness of HIV/AIDS. Efforts are made to have HIV/AIDS corners in libraries containing the latest information on the subject and initiatives are taken to provide information to members of the communities unable to read.

Women and freedom of access to information

Libraries do not have special programmes focusing on the promotion of women’s literacy, and neither do they specifically promote women’s access to information on social issues, economics, education, health, and family planning.

IFLA Internet Manifesto

The Botswana Library Association has not adopted

the Manifesto but intends to do so in the next two years. This intention was also indicated in 2003.

IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom

The question concerning the adoption of the Glasgow Declaration has not been answered but in 2003 respondents stated that the Declaration has been adopted but no promotional activities have been undertaken.

Ethics

A code of ethics was adopted in 2002. In the last two years, the Botswana Library Association has promoted and implemented professional values by contributing to the development of a national ICT policy. Also, as part of the association’s social responsibilities, submissions have been made to the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) government representatives of Botswana.

Main Indicators

Country Name:	Botswana
Population:	1,765,000
Main Language:	English (official), Setswana
Literacy:	79.8% (2003)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition



### Libraries and Internet Access

The following section compares data and answers from 2005 with the 2003 IFLA/FAIFE World Report and adds context from respondent's estimates regarding numbers of public and research libraries.

Population Online: 3.4% (2003: 2.1%)

Estimated number of public libraries\*: 23

Average number of people served by each public library service point: 76.739

Public libraries offering Internet access: Less than 20% (2003: Less than 20%)

Estimated number of research libraries\*\*: 256

Research libraries offering Internet access: 41-60% (2003: 61-80%)

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals : Yes, to a certain degree. Motivations given for this situation in 2005 included protection of children but also the need to safeguard national ethos and culture, and to protect public morality (2003: Yes, to a certain degree. This is motivated by a desire to protect children from inappropriate content)

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: Yes, to a certain degree. (2003: No)

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: Yes, in research libraries only (2003: Yes, in public libraries only)

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access in the library system in the last two years: Yes

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities



## Canada

### **Respondent: The Library Association**

Canada responded to the World Report in 2001 and 2003. The questionnaire response this year was detailed and extremely interesting, and it covers the country's library network of approximately 3300 public library service points and 370 research libraries. Compared to its 2003 response Internet access in both public and research libraries have remained at the highest level, with 81-100% of libraries offering access to the net. The Library Association is not in favour of filtering access on Internet terminals although filtering software is, to an extent, used throughout the system. As the section on violations of intellectual freedom shows, this seems to be a result of careful compromise on behalf of the library community with the needs of users (especially minors) and staff taken into account when making decisions. Since the 2003 report overall Internet penetration in the country has increased from 52.8% on 2002 to 63.4% in 2005 (changes in methodology may account for higher Internet penetration figures in 2001). While no extra

funding has been made available by state authorities in the last two years to increase Internet facilities, access to the Internet is still free in all libraries.

Regarding Anti-terror legislation, the situation in Canada is trouble-free at present although, as detailed below, it is possible that amendments to the law may change this in the future. As it stands now however, the library association believes that any keeping of user records as part of the anti-terror process will harm users' freedom of expression.

As in 2003, Canada has also reported incidents of interest relating to intellectual freedom, both of which are detailed below.

In other areas of special interest, Canadian libraries have promoted HIV/AIDS awareness issues through a variety of measures as well as taking action to promote women's access to information.

A code of ethics was adopted in 1976 and has been promoted at library conferences frequently since then. The library association intends to adopt the Internet Manifesto in the next two years but appears to have no similar plans to adopt the Glasgow Declaration.

### **User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

Canada passed an Anti-Terrorism Law in December, 2001. According to the government, this law “creates measures to identify, prosecute, convict and punish terrorist groups; provides new investigative tools to law enforcement and national security agencies; and ensures that Canadian values of respect and fairness are preserved and the root causes of hatred are addressed through stronger laws against hate crimes and propaganda.” As of mid-2005, it appears that this law has not targeted library records. However, the Canadian government is proposing to amend related legislation that regulates “lawful access.” Under Canadian law, “lawful access” refers to a long standing and widely accepted concept that allows law enforcement authorities to conduct surveillance activities - wire taps, opening mail, gaining photographic evidence. The proposed amendments would make access much easier for law enforcement authorities and would require ISPs to invigilate their clientele and archive records of clientele internet activity. Libraries could be considered within the scope of this legislation.

The Library Association’s response indicated that it believed the keeping of library user records did affect the freedom of expression of the individual library user.

### **Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

Isolated challenges to materials occurred in Canadian libraries throughout 2004, but these were resolved at the local level. The following are two events related to intellectual freedom that garnered national interest.

1) In 2002, some library staff at Ottawa (Ontario) Public Library (OPL) filed through their union a grievance entitled “Poisoned Work Environment”, alleging that the staff were subject to persistent and ongoing sexual harassment as a result of widespread access by members of the public to sexually explicit internet materials. Hearings were held throughout 2003. OPL management and the Canadian Library Association viewed the dispute as an intellectual freedom issue rather than a harassment issue.. The OPL management maintained that exposure to sexually explicit but otherwise legal material was part of the duties of a librarian. When asked for her opinion on the dispute, then CLA president Wendy Newman asked “What if somebody needs to research breast cancer, or if a kid has some private issues about transsexuality and desperately wants to learn more about it?” She further argued that Canada’s Charter of Rights and Freedoms obliges libraries to provide all manner of information, including what some people [even librarians] consider pornographic. A settlement between the librarians and management was reached in late 2003. That agreement includes (among other things) an initiative by OPL management to provide children under the age of 16 with only filtered access to computers unless in-person parental consent was provided for children to have unfiltered access. OPL management also provided patrons with greater choice between filtered and unfiltered access:



filters were installed in up to 50% of workstations in each OPL location. The settlement contained a clause that both parties agreed that “accessing sexually explicit material on the internet by patrons in the presence of staff did not, in and of itself, constitute sexually harassing behaviour or conduct, a poisoned work environment, or a breach of the Ontario Human Rights Code.” Both parties also agreed that under the OPL Internet Access Policy, “patrons are prohibited from engaging in a course of vexatious comment or conduct towards librarians, including using the internet, that is known or ought reasonably be known by the patron to be unwelcome.”

This case is important in Canada because the settlement clearly explained that in this case, the parties agreed that merely viewing sexually explicit material in the course of one’s library work does not constitute sexual harassment. It also demonstrated the measures that a public library took to address concerns by the public and staff about children accessing sexual images on the internet and concerns by staff about unwelcome patron actions.

2) In 2002, Librarian Kevin Keirans of the Thompson-Nicola Regional District Public Library in Kamloops (British Columbia) was contacted by Richard Warman, who threatened the Library with a libel suit unless the Library withdrew from its collection the book *Children of the Matrix* by David Icke. Mr. Warman also notified several other public libraries in Canada of the same threat. After obtaining local legal advice, the libraries withdrew their copies, although the book had not been deemed libelous by any court. The British Columbia Library Association (BCLA) website on Censorship in British Columbia ([www.bcpl.gov.bc.ca/bcla/ifc/](http://www.bcpl.gov.bc.ca/bcla/ifc/)) reported on this incident by quoting a Kamloops newspaper report: posting this information prompted Mr. Warman to sue the BCLA for libel and considerable monetary damages. After lengthy negotiations, a settlement between BCLA and Mr. Warman was reached that allowed information on the website to remain. The threatened suit against the libraries brought support from the BC Civil Liberties Association, who with the help of BCLA, lobbied the BC government to pass legislation that would protect libraries from threatened libel suits involving materials not proved libelous. An amendment to the Libel and Slander Act was passed in October, 2004 that creates a legal immunity for libraries that distribute materials which are subject to a claim of defamation. Previously, the state of the law made libraries that were subject to notification of a claim of defamation liable if they continued to distribute the materials and there was a legal finding that the materials were defamatory. The new legislation, however, does require libraries to respect court orders for injunctions prior to trial. The amendment can be accessed at: [www.legis.gov.bc.ca/37th5th/3rd\\_read/gov62-3.htm](http://www.legis.gov.bc.ca/37th5th/3rd_read/gov62-3.htm)

This case is of international importance. Not since similar legislation prompted by a libel case against the British Library was proposed but defeated by the British Parliament in 1901 has this issue of libraries and libel gained such prominent attention. The BC legislation appears to be unique in the world, and could certainly serve as a template for legislation in other jurisdictions. The law provides vital new protection for ensuring the integrity of library collections and is a victory for freedom of expression against efforts to impose prior restraint on materials even before any



court finds that there is defamation. The ultimate winner is the public, who will be able to continue to access controversial but not illegal materials.

### **HIV/AIDS awareness**

Public libraries in Canada have raised awareness of HIV/AIDS through library programs featuring talks by writers about HIV/AIDS and displays of materials celebrating HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. Public libraries have also made a special effort to acquire videos about HIV/AIDS. However, printed materials suitable for those with low literacy levels are difficult to find and frequently contain out-of-date information. Canada has approximately nine special libraries devoted to HIV/AIDS information. These libraries are open to the public, publicly funded, and staffed by librarians.

### **Women and freedom of access to information**

While there are currently no special programs focusing on the promotion of women's literacy, public libraries do offer programs on access to legal, health,

and parenting information, geared specifically to women. These programs are most frequently offered in areas where there is a large immigrant population.

### **IFLA Internet Manifesto**

While the library association has not adopted the Internet Manifesto, it did adopt a Statement on Internet Access in 1997, which guides Canadian librarians.

### **IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom**

The library association has not adopted the Glasgow Declaration.

### **Ethics**

The Canadian Library Association has both a Code of Ethics (1976) and an Intellectual Freedom Statement (1974). Library conference programs at both the national and provincial level frequently have sessions that explain both documents - the philosophy underlying them and their application in the workplace.

### Libraries and Internet Access

The following section compares data and answers from 2005 with the 2003 IFLA/FAIFE World Report and adds context from respondent's estimates regarding numbers of public and research libraries.

Population Online: 63.4% (2003: 52.7%; 2001: 56%)

Estimated number of public libraries\*: 3,300

Average number of people served by each public library service point: 9778

Public libraries offering Internet access: 81-100% (2003: 81-100%)

Estimated number of research libraries\*\*: 370

Research libraries offering Internet access: 81-100% (2003: 81-100%)

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: No (2003: Yes, to a certain degree)

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: Yes, to a certain degree (2003: Yes, to a certain degree)

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: Yes, in all libraries (2003: Yes, in public libraries only)

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access in the library system in the last two years: No

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities

### Main Indicators

Country Name: Canada

Population: 32,268,000

Main Language: English 59.3% (official), French 23.2% (official), other 17.5%

Literacy: 97% (1986 est.)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition





### Responding institution: Instituto do Arquivo Histórico Nacional

Cape Verde responded to the World Report for the first time in 2003. The estimated number of public library service points and research libraries has not been provided. Based on the questionnaire response, which provided little additional information, it would appear that at this time the overall intellectual freedom situation in Cape Verde is untroubled. There has been no anti-terror legislation passed affecting libraries, and no violations of intellectual freedom violations reported.

Internet access in Cape Verde has changed little since the 2003 report. Overall penetration has increased only slightly to 4% while both public and research libraries can still only offer Internet access at less than 20% of their service points (unfortunately the respondent does not indicate the number of public library service points and research libraries in the country so it is difficult to get context for these

answers). The library community in Cape Verde has also remained consistent with its position on filtering - it is definitely in favour of filtering Internet access in libraries and the use of the software is widespread. In both 2003 and 2005 the respondent gave only one motivation for the use of filtering: the need to protect public morality. To what extent this is a cultural outlook towards accessing information or the result of problem library users is difficult to say. Finally, state authorities have made money available for library Internet access in the past two years - which may be why access in public libraries is now free instead of charged for.

Regarding areas of special focus, Cape Verde's libraries are not actively involved in promoting HIV/AIDS awareness and they have no special programmes focusing on the promotion of women's literacy either.

As was the case in 2003, the association intends to adopt the IFLA Internet Manifesto, the Glasgow Declaration, and a code of ethics in the next two years.

**User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

The question concerning anti-terror legislation has not been answered by the respondent from Cape Verde. The keeping of user records is not considered to affect the freedom of expression of the individual library Internet user.

**Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

The question concerning reported incidents that adversely affect freedom of access to information and freedom of expression has not been answered. In 2003 the response to the same question was no.

**HIV/AIDS awareness**

Libraries in the country are not involved in programmes that raise awareness of HIV/AIDS and no initiatives have been taken to provide HIV/AIDS information to members of the communities unable to read.

**Women and freedom of access to information**

Libraries do not have special programmes focusing on the promotion of women's literacy, and

neither do they specifically promote women's access to information on social issues, the economy, education, health, and family planning.

**IFLA Internet Manifesto**

The situation in 2005 is similar to that of 2003, the Manifesto has not been adopted but intentions are to adopt in the next two years.

**IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom**

The response regarding the adoption of the Glasgow Declaration also is the same as in 2003 - the Declaration has not been adopted but intentions are that adoption will happen in the next two years.

**Ethics**

No code of ethics has been adopted but intentions are to adopt one in the next two years. This response is identical to that of 2003.

### Libraries and Internet Access

The following section compares data and answers from 2005 with the 2003 IFLA/FAIFE World Report and adds context from respondent's estimates regarding numbers of public and research libraries.

Population Online: 4% (2003: 2.94%)

Estimated number of public libraries\*: N/A

Average number of people served by each public library service point: N/A

Public libraries offering Internet access: Less than 20% (2003: Less than 20%)

Estimated number of research libraries\*\*: N/A

Research libraries offering Internet access: Less than 20% (2003: Less than 20%)

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: Yes, motivated by a desire to protect public morality (2003: Yes, motivated by a desire to protect public morality)

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: Yes (2003: Yes)

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: Yes, in public libraries only (2003: No)

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access

in the library system in the last two years: Yes

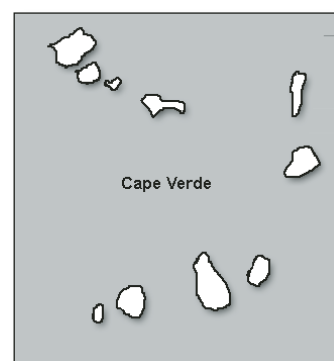
Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities

### Main Indicators

Country Name: Cape Verde  
 Population: 507,000  
 Main Language: Portuguese, Crioulo (a blend of Portuguese and West African words)  
 Literacy: 76.6% (2003)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition





## Chile

### **Responding institution: Dirección de Bibliotecas, Archivos y Museos (DIBAM)**

Chile has contributed to the World Report since 2001. In 2003 replies were received from the Dirección de Bibliotecas, Archivos y Museos and the Chilean Library Association. No reply was forthcoming from the library association this year and therefore information for comparison is taken from the 2003 response of the Dirección de Bibliotecas, Archivos y Museos (DIBAM).

This response relates to the estimated 500 public library service points. No estimation of the number of research libraries has been indicated. No anti-terror legislation has been passed in Chile and there are no proposals for such legislation, therefore DIBAM does not offer an opinion on the possible impact on user privacy. As to whether or not the keeping of user records would affect the freedom of expression of the individual Internet library user, the respondent states that this information is private, and only when it is

accessed as part of judicial investigations would user privacy could be affected. No incidents or violations that affect freedom of access to information and freedom of expression in Chile have occurred. Censorship has been eliminated from the Constitution. As detailed further below, DIBAM reports of some areas of concern regarding the 'pirate book market' that affects the author's intellectual property and the editorial industry. In 2003 no incidents or violations of intellectual freedom were reported either. The positive development in Chile suggests that libraries and their users can enjoy freedom of access to information, and the implementation of the professional values of the IFLA Internet Manifesto and the Glasgow Declaration as basis of the national policy for access and use of Internet library computers further stresses that.

Internet access in Chile's libraries and in the country as a whole remains very healthy. Overall Internet penetration rose from 20% in 2003 to 24.5% in 2005 and 81-100% of public and research libraries provide

access to the Internet without charge, an improvement on 2003 when it was indicated that access in research libraries was charged for. Filtering is used to a certain degree in Chile's libraries and the library association's position on filtering has remained unchanged from 2003 in that it is in favour of filtering to a certain degree. There is one slight change in 2005 however, as the motivations behind such a policy have been widened to include protecting computers from spam, spyware and viruses at the same time as protecting children. This suggests that the increase in Internet use Chile has undoubtedly seen in its libraries since 2001 has opened public access machines up to problems common to countries with heavy Internet use, namely the problems associated with machine and network security.

Regarding other focus areas, libraries in Chile are not involved raising awareness of HIV/AIDS but are actively involved in the promotion of women's literacy - with great success as can be seen below.

The profession in Chile has adopted a code of ethics, the IFLA Internet Manifesto and the Glasgow Declaration and has implemented their professional values in national professional policies.

### **User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

No anti-terror legislation that would adversely affect library users' intellectual freedom has been passed in Chile, and there are no proposals of such legislation should be passed. On this background, DIBAM does not offer an opinion on the possible impact on user privacy. As to whether or not the keeping of user records would affect the freedom of expression

of the individual library user, DIBAM states that user information is private, and is accessed only in cases of judicial investigations. While this might be true, it is also the same situation as in the United States under the PATRIOT act - library user information is private until government law enforcement agencies request it. Unfortunately, it is not possible to tell from the Chilean response how difficult it is for law enforcement to gain access to library user details, and therefore it is difficult to say if user privacy is under threat.

### **Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

Concerning incidents or violations in the last two years that have adversely affected freedom of access to information and freedom of expression in Chile, the following is reported. Situations that may apply are in regard to journalistic investigations because censorship was eliminated from the Constitution, and in the last two years there have been no cases regarding books. One critical area, however, is the 'pirate book market' that affects the author's intellectual property and the editorial industry.

The first World Report in 2001 detailed how freedom of access to information and freedom of expression was seriously compromised due to media censorship, self-censorship, control and sanctions. Initiatives were taken by sectors involved, including government and parliament but were considered insufficient. In 2003 no incidents or violations of intellectual freedom were reported and this year it is made clear that libraries in Chile do not have to worry about censorship or freedom of access to information for their clients any longer.



HIV/AIDS awareness

Libraries in Chile are not involved in activities to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS and no efforts have been made to provide HIV/AIDS information to members of the community unable to read.

Women and freedom of access to information

Libraries are actively involved in special programmes focusing on the promotion of women’s literacy such as a special invitation to participate in a literacy programme on Mother’s Day. In the last two years 60,000 women have been involved in this programme. Libraries also specifically promote women’s access to information on social issues, money matters, education, health, and family planning - with an emphasis on social, educational and health information.

IFLA Internet Manifesto

The IFLA Internet Manifesto has been adopted. As was reported in 2003, the Manifesto was used as one of the basic references in defining and implementing

access policies for public access computers in public libraries. This year, DIBAM reports that a national policy for the use of computers based on IFLA Manifesto has been distributed.

IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom

The Glasgow Declaration has also been adopted. The professional values of the Declaration are reflected in the national policy for access and use of computers and also in the non-discriminatory, confidential, private and equal service to all users.

Ethics

A code of ethics was adopted in 1977 but no information on the implementation of professional values has been reported.

Main Indicators

Country Name:	Chile
Population:	16,295,000
Main Language:	Spanish
Literacy:	96.2 (2003)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition



### Libraries and Internet Access

The following section compares data and answers from 2005 with the 2003 IFLA/FAIFE World Report and adds context from respondent's estimates regarding numbers of public and research libraries.

Population Online: 24.5% (2003: 20%; 2001: 4.12%)

Estimated number of public libraries\*: c.500

Average number of people served by each public library service point: c. 32,590

Public libraries offering Internet access: 81-100% (2003: 81-100%)

Estimated number of research libraries\*\*: N/A

Research libraries offering Internet access: 81-100% (2003: 81-100%)

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: Yes, to protect children but also to protect against spam, spyware and viruses (2003: Yes, to a certain degree with the motivation of protecting children)

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: Yes, to a certain degree (2003: Yes, to a certain degree)

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: Yes (2003: Yes, in public libraries only)

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access in the library system in the last two years: Yes

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities



## China

### **Responding institution: National Library of China**

China responded to the World Report in 2003. Relating to approximately 2079 public libraries and 8000 research libraries, the information contained in this year's questionnaire response is short and to the point, and the details below in the section on violations of intellectual freedom are obtained from third party sources. In light of these sources, it appears that intellectual freedom in China, especially on the Internet, is under threat from government attempts to monitor information-seeking and restrict access to certain types of information. It appears that freedom of expression in China is extremely limited, especially when it relates to criticism of the government.

Regarding the Internet in China, penetration has almost doubled since 2003. In libraries, it appears the extent of access in public libraries has stayed the same (41-60%) while levels in research libraries have dropped from 81-100% providing access to 61-80%.

The association's position on filtering has stayed the same, along with the extent to which filtering is used. It appears filtering is encouraged and implemented to a certain degree in order to protect children and prevent online criminal activities. It still costs to access the net in China's libraries, despite funds being made available to library authorities 2001-2003. Unfortunately there have been no extra funds forthcoming since then.

The Chinese response indicates that libraries in the country are not yet involved in HIV/AIDS awareness or increasing information access for women. Likewise, there are no reports of any problems in the final area of special focus, anti-terror legislation, although the respondent does indicate that the keeping of user records could be considered to harm freedom of expression.

The Chinese Library Association has adopted a code of ethics. The Internet Manifesto has not been adopted, nor the Glasgow Declaration but the respondent

indicates that it is hoped these two IFLA policies will be officially adopted in the next two years.

### **User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

There has been no anti-terror legislation passed in China that adversely affects library users' intellectual freedom. The respondent did indicate that the keeping of user records does affect the freedom of expression of the individual library user.

### **Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

There were no violations of intellectual freedom reported by the respondent, but further sources indicated that problems exist for freedom of access to information in China. Extensive censorship of the Internet continues in the country, as the government attempts to censor what citizens can read and write on the Internet. According to a study evaluating China's Internet practices in 2004, released in April 2005 by researchers from Harvard University, University of Toronto and Cambridge University, routinely blocking whole web sites and blocking certain keyword searches with state of the art Internet technology has made it easier for authorities to keep control of the internet use. Furthermore, in 2004, the Google search engine followed in Yahoo's steps by launching a Chinese version that automatically filters search results which are censored by the Chinese government. In Chinese cyber cafés the authorities have made sure records of users' activities on the Internet are kept, making it easier to monitor users and restrict Internet use. Freedom of expression has been further restricted as the authorities

have stepped up Internet censorship to include blogging and discussion forums, as reported by Reporters without Borders in early 2004. Websites hosting blogs commenting critically on the government have been shut down by Chinese police in charge of monitoring the Internet.

#### **Sources:**

Amnesty International. State control of the Internet in China, 2002:

<http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/engasa170072002?OpenDocument&of=COUNTRIES\CHINA>

Amnesty International, 28 January 2004:

<http://web.amnesty.org/library/index/engasa170012004>

Reporters Without Borders, March 2004:

[www.rsf.org/article.php3?id\\_article=9545](http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=9545)

Washington Post, April 14 2005:

[www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A51712-2005Apr13.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A51712-2005Apr13.html)

Wired, September 25, 2004, Google Bows to Chinese censorship:

[www.wired.com/news/politics/0,1283,65089,00.html?tw=wn\\_story\\_mailer](http://www.wired.com/news/politics/0,1283,65089,00.html?tw=wn_story_mailer)

World Press Freedom Report, IPI (International Press Institute) 2004:

[www.freemedia.at/wpfr/Asia/china.htm](http://www.freemedia.at/wpfr/Asia/china.htm)

### **HIV/AIDS awareness**

Libraries in China have not been involved in programs to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS, nor have they made efforts to provide this information to those unable to read.

Women and freedom of access to information

Libraries in China have not been involved in programs focusing on the promotion of women’s literacy, nor has there been any special efforts made to promote women’s access to information on topics such as social information, education or health.

IFLA Internet Manifesto

The National Library of China reports that the Internet Manifesto has not been adopted, but it is intended that it will be adopted in the next two years.

IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom

Likewise, the Glasgow Declaration has not been adopted, but it is intended that it will be adopted in the next two years.

Ethics

The Chinese Library Association adopted a code of ethics in 2002.

Main Indicators

Country Name:	China
Population:	1,315,844,000
Main Language:	Standard Chinese or Mandarin, Yue (Cantonese), Wu (Shanghaiese), Minbei, Minnan, Xiang, Gan, Hakka dialects, minority languages
Literacy:	90.9% (2002)
Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition	



### Libraries and Internet Access

The following section compares data and answers from 2005 with the 2003 IFLA/FAIFE World Report and adds context from respondent's estimates regarding numbers of public and research libraries.

Population Online: 7.1% (2003: 3.6%)

Estimated number of public libraries\*: By the end of 2003 there were 2079 libraries (above the county level) in China. The statistics from 2004 had not yet been published at the time of data collection for this report.

Average number of people served by each public library service point: (Based on 2003 figures for county libraries) 632,922

Public libraries offering Internet access: 41-60% (2003: 41-60%)

Estimated number of research libraries\*\*: There are approximately 8000 research libraries in China, although the number changes due to mergers.

Research libraries offering Internet access: 41-60% (2003: 81-100%)

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: Yes, to a certain degree. The association is motivated by a desire to protect Children and prevent crime (2003: Yes, to a certain degree in order to protect children)

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: Yes, to a certain degree (2003: Yes, to a certain degree)

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: No (2003: No)

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access in the library system in the last two years: No

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities



## Colombia

### **Responding institution: Universidad de los Andes**

Colombia is contributing to the World Report for the second time. This year the responding institution is the University of the Andes and not a functioning library association. The questionnaire response relates to the 1200 public library service points and 450 research libraries in the country. No anti-terror legislation that would adversely affect library users' intellectual freedom has been passed in Colombia. No violations of freedom of access to information have been reported. This was also the case in 2003. While this would seem to suggest that intellectual freedom in the country is in a healthy state, Amnesty International's 2005 report states that government pressure on human rights advocates is stifling freedom of expression.

Regarding Internet access, penetration in the country has doubled but levels of access in public libraries have stayed the same. The Bill and Melinda Gates

Foundation has been active with projects in certain urban areas but have not yet rolled out a nationwide program as in Chile. Levels in research libraries appear to have dropped from 81-100% of libraries providing access to 61-80%. Unfortunately, it is difficult to tell if this is really the case or the perception of the respondent. Funding has been made available in the last two years, as it was reported in the 2003 report. Perhaps consequently access is now free in all libraries. Use of filtering software is not widespread in the country, but the respondent believes the association to be fully behind its use - even if the motivations are not listed.

Regarding other focus areas, libraries in Colombia are not involved in programmes that raise awareness of HIV/AIDS but are engaged in the promotion of women's literacy and women's access to information on issues that include education, health and family planning.



Intentions are to adopt a code of ethics, the IFLA Internet Manifesto and the Glasgow Declaration in the next two years.

### **User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

No anti-terror legislation that would adversely affect library users' intellectual freedom has been passed in Colombia. If such legislation should be passed the respondent does not think it would impact on user privacy - only copyright issues. The keeping of user records is considered to affect the freedom of expression of the library Internet user.

### **Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

No incidents that adversely affect freedom of access to information and freedom of expression have occurred in Colombia in the last two years, and no information resources that might further explain the situation facing freedom of access to information has been listed. In 2003, this question was not answered. Amnesty International's 2005 report on Colombia does detail problems for defenders of intellectual freedom in the country however, and mentions that the government continues to undermine human rights defenders through statements equating their work with the promotion of "terrorism". Amnesty also reports on general and specific violations of human rights and human rights defenders.

Source:

Amnesty International 2005 Report:

[www.amnesty.org/report2005/col-summary-eng](http://www.amnesty.org/report2005/col-summary-eng)

### **HIV/AIDS awareness**

Libraries in Colombia are not involved in activities to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS, and no efforts have been made to provide HIV/AIDS information to members of the community unable to read.

### **Women and freedom of access to information**

Libraries are engaged in special programmes focusing on the promotion of women's literacy but no details of the activities are provided. Libraries have specifically promoted women's access to information on social issues, the economy, education, health and family planning.

### **IFLA Internet Manifesto**

The IFLA Internet Manifesto has not been adopted but the respondent reports that the library association intends to adopt it in the next two years.

### **IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom**

The Glasgow Declaration has not been adopted but the respondent reports that the library association intends to adopt it in the next two years.

### **Ethics**

Colombia intends to adopt a code of ethics in the next two years.

## Libraries and Internet Access

The following section compares data and answers from 2005 with the 2003 IFLA/FAIFE World Report and adds context from respondent's estimates regarding numbers of public and research libraries.

Population Online: 6.0% (2003: 2.80%)

Estimated number of public libraries\*: 1200

Average number of people served by each public library service point: 38,000

Public libraries offering Internet access: 21-40% (2003: 21-40%)

Estimated number of research libraries\*\*: 450

Research libraries offering Internet access: 61-80% (2003: 81-100%)

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: Yes, although the respondent does not reveal the motivations behind the position (2003: The 2003 response was unclear on the association's stance but believed it to be that they were in favour, to a certain degree)

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: No (2003: No answer available)

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: Yes, in all libraries (2003: Yes, but with some public libraries charging for access)

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access in the library system in the last two years: Yes

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities

## Main Indicators

Country Name: Colombia

Population: 45,600,000

Main Language: Spanish

Literacy: 92.5% (2003)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition





### Responding institution: Sistema Nacional de Bibliotecas

Costa Rica has contributed to the World Report series in 2001 and 2003. The response this year relates to the country's 58 public libraries, its 2500 school libraries in public schools, and the four central libraries in the public universities. There are no reports of violations of intellectual freedom, and no details of any anti-terror legislation passed in the country that would affect libraries. Based purely on the questionnaire response therefore, it would appear that there are few problems relating to the stifling of intellectual freedom in Costa Rica at present.

Costa Rica has seen a great increase in Internet penetration in the past two years (from 10.01% in 2003 to 27.7% in 2005) but this advance has not trickled through to the country's public library system - less than 20% of public libraries offer Internet access in 2005, no change from 2003. The respondent did not feel able to comment on the extent of access in re-

search libraries in 2005 or in 2003. Access is indicated to be free in all the country's libraries however, and it would appear that the use of filtering software is not widespread. This is despite the library association's position that it might in certain circumstances be needed to protect children. Other motivations were also mentioned for filtering, including safeguarding national security and national culture.

Costa Rica's libraries have been involved in HIV/AIDS awareness programmes, although details are minimal, and they have also promoted women's access to information and literacy through workshops and seminars in libraries. These sessions have concentrated on all types of women - from business-women to pregnant adolescents.

There is a code of ethics for Costa Rican librarians that is reflected in the professionalism of the country's librarians. The Internet Manifesto has not been adopted, but the Glasgow Declaration has been adopted and implemented in day-to-day work.

**User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

No anti-terror legislation has been passed in Costa Rica that would adversely affect the intellectual freedom of library users. The respondent did indicate that keeping user records harmed individuals' freedom of expression.

**Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

There were no reports of intellectual freedom violations taking place in Costa Rica in the last two years.

**HIV/AIDS awareness**

The Costa Rican response indicates that some efforts have been made to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS in the libraries of San Carlos. Further details are not forthcoming however, and the efforts do not extend to those members of the community unable to read.

**Women and freedom of access to information**

While libraries have not been involved in programmes specifically relating to the promotion of women's literacy, they have been working in areas that further women's access to information. Workshops, seminars, and talks against domestic violence have been held in libraries, and special atten-

tion has been paid to getting information to pregnant adolescents. There have also been training sessions for businesswomen, and space made in libraries for female artists. School libraries have also had workshops for mothers on information access.

**IFLA Internet Manifesto**

The Internet Manifesto has not been adopted. It is hoped that it will be in the next two years.

**IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom**

The Glasgow Declaration has been adopted. The respondent stated that Costa Rica is a country that defends democracy and therefore the free access of its citizens to information in any form, thus promoting values and civil rights. The Declaration is implemented by not discriminating; and by defending the right to privacy and confidentiality regarding information sought and received by library users.

**Ethics**

A code of ethics was adopted in Costa Rica in 1991. In terms of implementation, this means that the library director's job should be in professional hands. Besides this, the duties of library and information professionals are also examined in light of the code. There are disciplinary sanctions as well as an honour tribunal.

### Libraries and Internet Access

The following section compares data and answers from 2005 with the 2003 IFLA/FAIFE World Report and adds context from respondent's estimates regarding numbers of public and research libraries.

Population Online: 27.7% (2004: 10.01%; 2001: 4.04%)

Estimated number of public libraries\*: 58

Average number of people served by each public library service point: 74,603

Public libraries offering Internet access: Less than 20% (2003: Less than 20%)

Estimated number of research libraries\*\*: There are 2500 school libraries in public schools, and four central libraries in the following public universities: Universidad de Costa Rica; Universidad Nacional; Universidad Estatal a Distancia; Instituto Tecnológico

Research libraries offering Internet access: N/A (2003: N/A)

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: Yes, to a certain degree motivated by a desire to protect children, safeguard national security (e.g. anti-terrorism measures), safeguard national culture and prevent access to pornography (2003: Yes, to a certain degree in order to protect children)

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: No (2003: No)

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: Yes, in all libraries (2003: Yes, in public libraries)

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access in the library system in the last two years: No

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities

### Main Indicators

Country Name: Costa Rica

Population: 4,327,000

Main Language: Spanish (official), English

Literacy: 96% (2003)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition





**Responding institution: Croatian Library Association (CLA)**

Croatia responded to the World Report in 2001 and 2003. Croatia has provided a detailed response relating to the make up of its library system this year, and the lack of information relating to intellectual freedom violations or anti-terror legislation would seem to indicate that the country's libraries are providing access to information free from restraints at this point in time.

Regarding the Internet situation, there has been a rapid growth in the online population of Croatia in the last two years - over 50% of the population now have access to the Internet. There also appears to have been a corresponding increase in access in public libraries and Croatia now offers access to the Internet in 81-100% of both its public and research libraries. There has been no extra funding in the last two years, but the funding made available 2001-2003 may have

contributed to the higher levels of access. Regardless of this it still costs to access the Internet in public libraries. Filtering is not widespread in the country's libraries, and the library association is not in favour of using it - a change from 2003 when the response indicated that it might be tolerated to protect children.

Regarding other areas of special focus, the Croatian response indicated that libraries have not been involved in promoting HIV/AIDS awareness or women's access to information.

While Croatian libraries may not have undertaken actions in the special areas of focus for this report, the efforts of the library community regarding codes of ethics and IFLA initiatives are impressive. A code of ethics has been adopted, as have the Internet Manifesto and the Glasgow Declaration. The Glasgow Declaration in particular has been promoted extensively.

### **User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

There has been no anti-terror legislation passed that adversely affects library users' intellectual freedom. The respondent did not indicate a position on the keeping of user records.

### **Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

The Croatian response indicated no violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years.

### **HIV/AIDS awareness**

Croatia's libraries have not been involved in programmes of any kind promoting HIV/AIDS awareness.

### **Women and freedom of access to information**

Likewise, libraries in Croatia have not been involved in initiatives designed to promote women's literacy or access to information.

### **IFLA Internet Manifesto**

The IFLA Internet Manifesto has been adopted. It has been translated and published in the Croatian Library Association (CLA) newsletter, as well as in the proceedings of the Round Table on Freedom of Access to Information in Service of Cultural Development. CLA has just set up a project to organize round tables in a war-torn Croatian county. The project also includes the acquisition of computers

and provision of Internet access in accordance with the principles laid down by the IFLA Internet Manifesto. Several libraries are allowing Internet use free of charge as a result.

### **IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom**

The IFLA Glasgow Declaration has been translated and published in the CLA Newsletter, as well as in the proceedings of the Round Table on Freedom of Access to Information in Service of Cultural Development. Its recommendations have been incorporated in the new Croatian Library Association Constitution and Code of ethics, which was adopted in September 2002. In practice, the Declaration comes through in the work of ask-the-librarian-services in 15 libraries. Additionally, 31 libraries have their own website, 14 have access to local library catalogues and provide information about library work and programs.

In 2003 the Croatian Librarian Association implemented two projects approved by the government's office for associations - Free Access to Information for the Purpose of the Development of Democracy and The Protection of old Croatian newspapers. Three projects were approved in 2004 - Library Services for People with Special Needs (defining the problem with reading and writing with people with the said educational measures in the Republic of Croatia) which was approved by the Croatian Office for Human Rights; Let's Read to Them Starting at an Early Age; and School Libraries in Light of IFLA's Guidelines. The latter two project were approved by the office for the education of the city of Zagreb. We expect the local government and self-government units to recognise the importance of



ensuring free access to the Internet in libraries to all citizens and that public libraries, as local educational, cultural and education centres, will receive sufficient funds . We also expect that libraries connected in a network and educated librarians would provide information to citizens necessary in the time of Croatia’s joining the European Union.

Ethics

The Croatian Library Association (CLA) adopted a

code of ethics in 1992. The code has been published in the CLA newsletter and on the Association’s web-site ([www.hkdrustvo.hr](http://www.hkdrustvo.hr)). An English translation is available on the IFLANET and on the FAIFE webpages ([www.ifla.org/faife/ethics/crlacode.htm](http://www.ifla.org/faife/ethics/crlacode.htm)), together with the ethical codes of other library associations. In 2001 CLA organised a round table on the code of ethics as part of the Seminar Archives, Libraries and Museums. The code of ethics was also discussed at the 33rd CLA Annual Assembly held in 2002. In 2002 CLA founded a committee on ethics.

Main Indicators

Country Name:	Croatia
Population:	4,551,000
Main Language:	Croatian 96%, other 4% (including Italian, Hungarian, Czech, Slovak, and German)
Literacy:	98.5% (2003)
Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition	



### Libraries and Internet Access

The following section compares data and answers from 2005 with the 2003 IFLA/FAIFE World Report and adds context from respondent's estimates regarding numbers of public and research libraries.

Population Online: 50.9% (2003: 10.93%; 2001: 2.14%)

Estimated number of public libraries\*: 272 public libraries in 192 municipalities in the Republic of Croatia (18 county libraries, 243 public and branch libraries, 11 mobile libraries). There are (in public libraries) 8 central libraries for minorities: Albanian, Austrian, Czech, Hungarian, Italian, Ukrainian, Serb, Slovenian

Average number of people served by each public library service point: 16,732

Public libraries offering Internet access: 81-100% (2003: 21-40%)

Estimated number of research libraries\*\*: 965 primary and secondary school libraries, 94 academic and university libraries and 116 special libraries

Research libraries offering Internet access: 81-100% (2003: 81-100%)

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: No (2003: Yes, to a certain degree in order to protect children)

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: No (2003: No)

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: Yes, in research libraries only (2003: Yes, in research libraries only)

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access

in the library system in the last two years: No

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities



## Cuba

### **Responding institution: Biblioteca Nacional "José Martí"**

Cuba responded to the World Report in 2001 but not in 2003. This year's response relates to the country's 412 public library access points, and its 31 research libraries. No anti-terror legislation has been passed in Cuba but a paragraph has been added to the country's constitution, as further explained below. No violations of intellectual freedom have been reported by the Biblioteca Nacional. However, over the years the situation regarding intellectual freedom in Cuba has been open to much debate amongst members of the international library community and at IFLA Councils. The debate has specifically concentrated on the 'independent libraries', censorship of information resources, and of the US embargo. Independent sources such as Amnesty International have spoken of incidents of aggression and imprisonment human rights activists including independent librarians and journalists, and of the consequences of the US embargo as well. In its Annual Report 2005, Amnesty

International states the following, "In April the UN Commission on Human Rights passed a resolution deploring the verdicts against political opponents and journalists arrested in 2003. It called for Cuba to cooperate with the UN envoy and to "refrain from adopting measures which could jeopardise the fundamental rights, the freedom of expression and the rights to due process of its citizens". In November, for the 13th consecutive year, the UN General Assembly passed a resolution calling on the USA to end its embargo on Cuba.

Regarding Internet access, the respondent this year indicated that while there are 103 Internet installations in the library field, the country's Internet use in libraries has been hampered by the US embargo. In other institutions, Cuba had 46,290 computers from the primary to the secondary school levels during the 2003-2004 year. There are 301 Youth Computer Clubs within the country's 169 municipalities and the Information Sciences University has more than 270,000 computers. How many of these computers are con-

nected to the Internet is not reported. Despite a very low Internet penetration rate of 1.1% (an increase of only 0.54% in five years) the respondent points out that the situation in Cuba's library system and schools is steadily improving, with free of charge access to the Internet now available in 41-60% of public and research libraries. Filtering is favoured to a certain degree in order to protect children and safeguard national culture, and use of the software is to a degree widespread in libraries connected to the Internet. The respondent states that this filtering should not be seen as censorship: (Translated from the Spanish) "Filtering is seen as selection to guarantee that the subject and age contents match with the children's character formation, honest and healthy life, and ethic, coexistence and revolutionary principles. To support the learning of such principles there are computers in the country's primary and secondary schools, and children use the Internet from an early age."

Regarding other areas of special focus, Cuba's libraries have been involved in efforts to promote HIV/AIDS awareness - mostly through the country's INFOMED library net. The response goes into some detail regarding the eradication of illiteracy in the country, something the respondent takes into account when answering the questions on the supply of HIV/AIDS information to those unable to read and the questions on women's literacy. With a literacy percentage of 97, Cuban libraries do not see women and men's information access needs as separate.

The Cuban library association has adopted a code of ethics, as well as the Internet Manifesto and

Glasgow Declaration. The respondent indicates that all three initiatives are incorporated into daily library work.

### **User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

The Cuban response states that there is no anti-terrorism legislation in Cuba. It goes on to say that after threats of aggression towards Cuba by representatives of the United States government, the National Popular Power Assembly approved on June 26, 2002 to add a clause to Chapter 1 of the Political, Social and Economic Foundations, article 1:

"The socialist and political and revolutionary social system established in this Constitution, proved by years of heroic resistance to all types of aggressions and the economic war by the governments of the most powerful imperialist power that has existed, and having proved its capacity of transforming the country, and creating an entirely new and fair society, is irrevocable, and Cuba will never return to capitalism."

### **Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

The questionnaire response states that there have been no violations of intellectual freedom in Cuba in the past two years. Mention is made in the questionnaire response of the US embargo which impacts on the amount of information technology available to the library system. However, at the same time as Cuba continues to increase Internet access for children through schools and youth clubs, it is increasingly difficult for individuals to gain access to the Internet from home due to restrictions imposed by the government. An

IFLA/FAIFE press release expressing concern about this situation was issued in January 2004. Furthermore, while the respondent indicates filtering in libraries to be a selection decision, not censorship, concerns have also been raised regarding upstream government control of access, whereby email use is monitored, websites blocked and individual access heavily restricted. As has been discussed in the summary, many sources provide examples of restrictions of freedom of expression in the country, including limitations on Internet access, censorship of library materials and the harassment and imprisonment of political dissidents. Caught up in this situation are the 'independent librarians' - a group of dissidents organised around the theme of opposition to the country's official library service. This group has supporters and detractors among the international library community, and discussion of the situation facing those who have opened their homes to lend books has been a continuous feature of many library mailing lists, including FAIFE's discussion list (FAIFE-L). The Cuban response makes no mention of the independent librarians as they are not considered members of the library profession in the country. IFLA/FAIFE continues to monitor the situation in the country, and has previously produced two reports on the situation facing the independent librarians in Cuba and the reports are available on the FAIFE website (details below).

#### Sources:

Amnesty International 2005:  
[web.amnesty.org/report2005/cub-summary-eng](http://web.amnesty.org/report2005/cub-summary-eng)  
 Human Rights Watch. Cuba: One year after the crackdown, 2004:  
<http://hrw.org/english/docs/2004/03/17/cuba8126>.

htm

IFEX. Castro tightens grip on Internet, 2004:  
[www.ifex.org/en/content/view/full/56317/](http://www.ifex.org/en/content/view/full/56317/)

Further information on intellectual freedom issues in Cuba, IFLA/FAIFE:

[www.ifla.org/faife/faife/cubareport2001.htm](http://www.ifla.org/faife/faife/cubareport2001.htm)

[www.ifla.org/V/press/faife-cuba03.htm](http://www.ifla.org/V/press/faife-cuba03.htm)

[www.ifla.org/V/press/faife120603pr.htm](http://www.ifla.org/V/press/faife120603pr.htm)

[www.ifla.org/V/press/cuba160104.htm](http://www.ifla.org/V/press/cuba160104.htm)

<http://infoserv.inist.fr/wwwsympa.fcgi/info/faife-l>

#### HIV/AIDS awareness

Cuban libraries have been involved in programmes to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS. Cuba's INFOMED library net for the entire country has not only made a good work on promoting and preventing divulgation about AIDS, but does general work on all diseases, reporting satisfactory benefits for the people's health. This work ranges from upgrading all installations with the most modern equipment from the Policlinico hospital to the work of specialized and research hospitals that deal with the most complex health problems. Regarding the supply of HIV/AIDS information to those unable to read, the Cuban response describes how, during the first years of the victory of the Revolution, there was a literacy campaign that reduced to a minimum the number of illiterate people. Immediately afterwards the newly literate were moved into education at intermediate, superior and university levels, adults and youngsters. Thousands of possibilities were opened up to study in technological schools and other centres to prepare workers. Among the changes to the school system were the addition of the most modern techniques and better classroom

conditions to the point that there is currently an university branch in each municipality. Libraries participate on a national reading campaign with positive results where children play a decisive role. Libraries also work with a system on learning to read to raise the educational levels of blind and visually impaired people.

### **Women and freedom of access to information**

The Cuban response states that there are no differences between men and women in terms of access to information, and that there are no specialized libraries with such programs because Cuban women are not illiterate. There is no differentiation regarding the education of men and women as the education system guarantees the information and education needed by women from social, economic, educational, health and family planning angles from the primary to university level.

### **IFLA Internet Manifesto**

The Internet Manifesto has been adopted. Cuban librarians see the Internet as a signal of the devel-

opment of the country in all aspects and the state authorities, the libraries and the library association are working together to increase access. The increase of new Internet services within the libraries as a way of achieving more informed users is encouraged as it means a social welfare.

### **IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom**

The Glasgow Declaration has also been adopted. In accordance to its principles, Cuban libraries are trying to extend information services promoting intellectual freedom as well as access to information for all their users.

### **Ethics**

The Cuban library association adopted a code of ethics in 2003. It is implemented on a daily bases by attempts to improve and expand the role assigned to libraries for their professional development, and always looking to make library services more efficient for the users.

### Libraries and Internet Access

This is Cuba's second contribution to the World Report, although it's first contribution came in 2001 when a different data collection process. The online population figure from that report is noted below.

Population Online: 1.1 % (2001: 0.54%)

Estimated number of public libraries*:	412
Average number of people served by each public library service point:	27,352
Public libraries offering Internet access:	41-60%
Estimated number of research libraries**:	31
Research libraries offering Internet access:	41-60%.

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: Yes, to a certain degree in order to protect children and safeguard national culture.

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: Yes, to a certain degree

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: Yes, in all libraries

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access in the library system in the last two years: Yes

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities

### Main Indicators

Country Name:	Cuba
Population:	11,269,000
Main Language:	Spanish
Literacy:	97% (2003)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition







### Responding institution: Cyprus Library

Cyprus is responding to the World Report series for the second time and this year's response refers to the 130 public library service points and 15 research libraries in the country. The library association in Cyprus is currently inactive however, so the respondent indicated that some areas of focus relating to association positions were difficult to comment on. Overall, the responses relating to intellectual freedom indicate that the country's libraries are not presently facing any threats to freedom of access to information.

Cyprus has experienced a growth in Internet user numbers in the past two years, with nearly 30% of the population now assumed to have access to the Internet. However, the situation in public library Internet access appears to have taken a step backwards, with the amount of libraries providing access falling from 21-40% to less than 20%. This invites speculation but details as to why were not forthcoming. It may be that

the 2003 respondent was from a different institution. Filtering software is not widespread in the country's libraries, and access is only free in the libraries of research institutions. While extra funding for library Internet access was made available in 2001-2003 there were no further extra funds in 2003-2005.

Regarding areas of special focus, there has been no anti-terror legislation passed that has the capacity to adversely affect libraries. Libraries have not been involved in promoting HIV/AIDS awareness or women's access to information in any way.

There is currently no code of ethics for librarians in the country. The respondent indicated that the Internet Manifesto and Glasgow Declaration have not been adopted but expressed a hope that they both would be in the next two years.

User privacy and anti-terror legislation

No anti-terror legislation has been passed in Cyprus that would adversely affect the intellectual freedom of library users. The respondent did not believe that keeping user records harmed individual’s freedom of expression.

Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years

There have been no reported violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years.

HIV/AIDS awareness

Libraries in Cyprus have not been involved in any programmes promoting HIV/AIDS awareness.

Women and freedom of access to information

Likewise, libraries in Cyprus have not been involved

in initiatives designed to promote women’s literacy or access to information.

IFLA Internet Manifesto

The Internet Manifesto has not been adopted, although the respondent indicated it might be in the next two years.

IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom

The Glasgow Declaration has not been adopted either, although it might be in two years’ time.

Ethics

There is currently no code of ethics for librarians in Cyprus. The library association in Cyprus is currently inactive, which is perhaps the reason why the respondent believes that a code of ethics would not be adopted in two years time.

Main Indicators

Country Name:	Cyprus
Population:	835,000
Main Language:	Greek, Turkish, English
Literacy:	97.6% (2003)
Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition	



### Libraries and Internet Access

The following section compares data and answers from 2005 with the 2003 IFLA/FAIFE World Report and adds context from respondent's estimates regarding numbers of public and research libraries.

Population Online: 29.9% (2003: 10.93%)

Estimated number of public libraries\*: 130

Average number of people served by each public library service point: 6423

Public libraries offering Internet access: Less than 20% (2003: 21-40%)

Estimated number of research libraries\*\*: 15

Research libraries offering Internet access: 81-100% (2003: 81-100%)

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: No (the respondent indicated no, but also stated that the library association was currently inactive) (2003: Yes, to a certain degree to protect children)

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: No (2003: No)

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: Yes, in research libraries only (2003: Yes, in research libraries only)

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access in the library system in the last two years: No

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities



## Czech Republic

### **Responding institution: Association of Library and Information Professionals of the Czech Republic (SKIP)**

This is the third World Report entry from the Czech Republic who responded to in 2001 and 2003. The report below refers to the country's 7005 public library access points and 123 research libraries. This year's response mentions no violations of intellectual freedom and it would appear that libraries in the Czech Republic suffer no problems regarding freedom of expression in libraries. The response does, however, mention that while no new anti-terror legislation has been passed it has been mandatory for decades to supply library user records to law enforcement agencies that require them. Librarians in the country are no doubt used to such a situation by now but it makes interesting reading when comparing the Czech situation to the new position American librarians find themselves in.

Internet user numbers in the Czech Republic are

increasing and there is encouraging government support for public libraries. Levels of access in libraries have stayed the same since 2003, with 21-40% of public libraries offering access and 81-100% of research. Despite a shift in the national association's position on filtering (from not in favour to in favour to a certain degree), the use of filtering software is not widespread in libraries. The Czech response was also very informative regarding charges for Internet access. Czech law stipulates for partially free, partially fee-based access to the Internet (subject to free, or fee-based access to the source, respectively) in public libraries - as well as in other libraries accessible to public. In practice, however, it is frequently just the opposite. Nonetheless, there is a large national government-funded programme in progress (2004-2009) that will establish high-speed (broad band) access to the Internet in public libraries on the proviso that access to the Internet shall be provided to the public free of charge (at least in the course of the programme, and at least in respect to the free Internet sources).

Unfortunately no answers were received regarding the two remaining special areas of focus, HIV/AIDS awareness and women's access to information. The Czech response was more forthcoming on issues relating to IFLA initiatives however, and both the Internet Manifesto and Glasgow Declaration have been adopted. The circumstances in which they are implemented are open to question however, and it appears that a debate may well begin in the Czech library community about this in future. Finally, the library association has adopted a code of ethics.

### **User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

No new anti-terror legislation has been passed in the Czech Republic but it has been mandatory for decades to supply library user records to law enforcement agencies that require them. The respondent indicates that if there have been any resulting conflicts for library users' intellectual freedom there are no examples available at this time. The response gives the impression that this situation is presenting no problems for libraries' day-to-day work.

### **Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

There have been no violations of intellectual freedom reported to have taken place in the last two years.

### **HIV/AIDS awareness**

No answers were received for questions relating to HIV/AIDS.

### **Women and freedom of access to information**

No answers were received for questions relating to women's literacy or access to information.

### **IFLA Internet Manifesto**

The library association has adopted the Internet Manifesto and a translation into Czech has been posted on the Internet. The Manifesto was also the subject of a traditional professional conference. While some anecdotal evidence shows a practice contradictory to the intentions of the Manifesto there has not developed an open discussion about this, at least not yet in the professional journals.

### **IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom**

The Glasgow Declaration has been adopted by the Czech library community. The respondent gave the same response as above regarding the Internet Manifesto however, which implies that some librarians may be putting opposite ideas into practice in their daily work. This is an interesting situation, and it is to be hoped that the discussion in journals mentioned by the respondent materialises in order to assess how this situation has occurred.

### **Ethics**

The Association of Library and Information Professionals of the Czech Republic adopted a code of ethics in 2004.

## Libraries and Internet Access

The following section compares data and answers from 2005 with the 2003 and (where possible) 2001 IFLA/FAIFE World Reports and adds context from respondent's estimates regarding numbers of public and research libraries.

Population Online: 34.5% (2003: 26.23%; 2001: 3.4%)

Estimated number of public libraries\*: 7005

Average number of people served by each public library service point: 1459

Public libraries offering Internet access: 21-40% (2003: 21-40%)

Estimated number of research libraries\*\*: 123

Research libraries offering Internet access: 81-100% (2003: 81-100%)

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: Yes, to a certain degree (2003: No)

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: No (2003: No)

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: Yes, in research libraries (see above) (2003: Yes, in research libraries)

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access in the library system in the last two years: Yes (see above)

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities

## Main Indicators

Country Name: Czech Republic

Population: 10,220,000

Main Language: Czech

Literacy: 99.9% (1999)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition





**Responding institution: Association des Bibliothécaires, Archivistes, Documentalistes et Muséologues (ABADOM)**

This is the first time that the Democratic Republic of Congo has responded to the World Report Survey. This report relates to the estimated 475 public library service points and 111 research libraries. No anti-terror legislation has been passed in the country and based on the response of the library association no violations of intellectual freedom are reported. However, additional information from independent sources provides another picture of the state of freedom of access to information and freedom of expression in the country and suggests that problems with press freedom exist.

The degree of Internet penetration in the country is extremely low and consequently levels of Internet access in libraries are very poor as well. It is likely that the infrastructure and funding levels needed to increase Internet access in libraries are some way

from being realised and the state has not made any funds available for libraries to increase access in the past two years. The association does take a position in favour of filtering Internet access, even if use of the software is not widespread, but does not indicate the motivation behind such a stance.

Regarding areas of special focus, Democratic Republic of Congo's libraries have not been involved in promoting HIV/AIDS awareness or in special programmes focusing on the promotion of women's literacy.

The association has not adopted a code of ethics, the IFLA Internet Manifesto, or the Glasgow Declaration but intends to do so in the next two years.

**User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

No anti-terror legislation that affects libraries has been passed but the respondent indicates that if legislation is passed in the future it is likely to impact on



library users' privacy. It was also indicated that the keeping of library user records harms library users' freedom of expression.

### **Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

The respondent indicates that no incidents adversely affecting freedom of access to information and freedom of expression have occurred in the Democratic Republic of Congo in the last two years. Third party sources on the other hand, mention that there are some problems for press freedom in the country. According to a special report by CPJ (Committee to Protect Journalists) in September 2004, press freedom has suffered major setbacks in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Although the transition constitution adopted in 2003 guarantees press freedom, the government has done little to ensure freedom of access to information in practice. On the contrary, as the conflicts between rebels and the authorities continue, the government has issued three directives restricting reporting, resulting in low news coverage and attacks and harassment of local journalists. In the press release of the CPJ special report, it was stated: "The attacks reflect fundamental and ongoing obstacles to press freedom that include continuing government censorship, a climate of violence and insecurity, and the use of outdated laws to imprison journalists who offend authorities."

#### **Sources:**

CPJ - Committee to Protect Journalists, September 2004:

[www.cpj.org/attacks04/africa04/drc.html](http://www.cpj.org/attacks04/africa04/drc.html)

IFEX - Regional News, 16 September 2004:

[www.ifex.org/es/content/view/full/61304/](http://www.ifex.org/es/content/view/full/61304/)

### **HIV/AIDS awareness**

Libraries have not been involved in programmes that raise awareness of HIV/AIDS, and no efforts have been made to provide information on the subject to members of the community unable to read.

### **Women and freedom of access to information**

Libraries do not have special programmes focusing on the promotion of women's literacy, and neither do they specifically promote women's access to information on social issues, the economy, education, health or family planning.

### **IFLA Internet Manifesto**

The association has not adopted the Manifesto but intentions are to do so in the next two years.

### **IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom**

The situation regarding the Glasgow Declaration is similar to that of the Internet Manifesto, It has not been adopted but ABADOM intends to do so in the next two years.

### **Ethics**

No code of ethics has been adopted but intentions are to adopt one in the next two years.

### Libraries and Internet Access

The This is the Democratic Republic of Congo's first contribution to the World Report.

Population Online: 0.1%

Estimated number of public libraries\*: 475

Average number of people served by each public library service point: 121,156

Public libraries offering Internet access: Less than 20%

Estimated number of research libraries\*\*: 111

Research libraries offering Internet access: Less than 20%

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: Yes, although respondent did not indicate a specific motivation

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: No

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: Yes, in research libraries only

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access in the library system in the last two years: No

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities

### Main Indicators

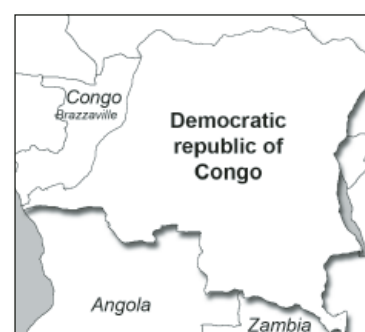
Country Name: Democratic Republic of Congo

Population: 57,549,000

Main Language: French (official), Lingala (a lingua franca trade language),  
Kingwana (a dialect of Kiswahili or Swahili), Kikongo, Tshiluba

Literacy: 65.5% (2003)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition





## Denmark

### **Responding institution: The Danish Library Association**

This is Denmark's third entry in the World Report series, having responded in 2001 and 2003. This year's response is covering 670 public library access points and 330 research libraries. The intellectual freedom situation in the country seems to be good, with no adverse effects of anti-terror legislation reported. The only sour note in this year's report concerns the unavailability of music CDs for loan until they have been on sale for four months.

Internet penetration has increased very slightly in Denmark in the past two years and now stands at nearly 70%. Public and research libraries continue to offer access at 81-100% of all service points and the government continues to supply extra funding for Internet technology. Internet use is free in all libraries. Regarding the use of filtering software, the Library Association does not explicitly endorse the use of filters but recognises that protection of children is an

issue of importance. Education of parents and children regarding the dangers of the Internet is thought to be a much better way of protecting minors.

Danish libraries are informally providing information resources that promote HIV/AIDS awareness, and if possible they provide them in spoken form to help members of the community unable to read. Libraries in the country are not involved in any programmes specifically promoting women's literacy at this time.

While the Danish Library Association has no influence on daily work in Danish libraries, it has adopted both the Internet Manifesto and the Glasgow Declaration. It has not adopted a code of ethics however, and does not intend to in the next two years.

### **User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

There are no reports of anti-terror legislation being passed that adversely affects library users' intellectual freedom.

### Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years

New music CDs are not available for loan in Danish libraries until four months after they have been officially released.

### HIV/AIDS awareness

Although there are no formal programmes, libraries in Denmark do help raise awareness of HIV/AIDS by making information folders on the topic available in public libraries. If it is possible they also make the material available in spoken form on tape or CD, which would help members of the community unable to read.

### Women and freedom of access to information

At present, Danish libraries are not involved in any specific programmes to promote women's literacy

or women's access to information on topics such as healthcare, education or family planning.

### IFLA Internet Manifesto

The library association has adopted the Internet Manifesto but the respondent points out that the association has no influence on the daily work in the libraries. Despite this, Danish library legislation is very much in agreement with the manifesto.

### IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom

The library association adopted the Glasgow Declaration in 2004.

### Ethics

The Danish Library Association does not have a code of ethics and does not intend to adopt one in the next two years.

### Main Indicators

Country Name: Denmark

Population: 5,431,000

Main Language: Danish, Faroese, Greenlandic (an Inuit dialect), German (small minority)

Literacy: 100 (year not available)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition



### Libraries and Internet Access

The following section compares data and answers from 2005 with the 2003 and (where possible) 2001 IFLA/FAIFE World Reports and adds context from respondent's estimates regarding numbers of public and research libraries.

Population Online: 68.5% (2003: 62.77%; 2001: 48.37%)

Estimated number of public libraries\*: 670

Average number of people served by each public library service point: 8106

Public libraries offering Internet access: 81-100% (2003: 81-100%)

Estimated number of research libraries\*\*: 330

Research libraries offering Internet access: 81-100% (2003: 81-100%)

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: Yes, to a certain degree in order to protect children (2003: No)

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: Yes, to a certain degree (2003: Yes, to a certain degree)

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: Yes, in all libraries (2003: Yes, in all libraries)

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access in the library system in the last two years: Yes

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities



### **Responding institution: Banco Central del Ecuador, Universidad San Francisco**

Responses for Ecuador come from two sources, the Central Bank and the San Francisco University. Responses from these two institutions were almost exactly the same, although neither respondent was able to detail the number of public or research libraries in the country. There was little additional information contained in the two reports, making it difficult to get a picture of the intellectual freedom situation in the country. No anti-terror legislation has been passed in the country, and no violations of intellectual freedom reported.

Regarding the Internet in Ecuador, the information received was basic. Internet penetration is low, at 4.4%, and less than 20% of the public libraries and 21-40% of research libraries offer Internet access. Filtering is not widespread in the country's libraries and the library association is not in favour of using the software. A plus point is that access in all libraries

is free - even without extra funding from the state or library authorities.

Regarding the other areas of special focus, libraries in Ecuador have not been involved in promoting HIV/AIDS awareness or women's access to information in any way.

There is no code of ethics for Ecuador's librarians and it is unclear whether or not one will be adopted in the next two years. The Internet Manifesto and Glasgow Declaration have not been adopted but the respondent indicated that they both would be in the next two years.

### **User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

No anti-terror legislation has been passed in Ecuador that would adversely affect the intellectual freedom of library users, although it was indicated that any future legislation might likely impact user privacy. The

respondent did indicate that keeping user records harmed the individual's freedom of expression.

### **Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

There have been no reported violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years.

### **HIV/AIDS awareness**

Libraries in Ecuador have not been involved in any programmes promoting HIV/AIDS awareness.

### **Women and freedom of access to information**

Likewise, libraries in Ecuador have not been involved in initiatives designed to promote women's literacy or access to information.

### **IFLA Internet Manifesto**

The Internet Manifesto has not been adopted. It is hoped that it will be in the next two years.

### **IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom**

The Glasgow Declaration has also not been adopted. Again, it is hoped that it will be in the coming two years.

### **Ethics**

There is no code of ethics for Ecuador's librarians and, while the San Francisco University response indicates that one might be adopted in the next two years, the Central Bank response suggests that one will not.

#### **Main Indicators**

Country Name: Ecuador

Population: 13,228,000

Main Language: Spanish (official), Amerindian languages (especially Quechua)

Literacy: 92.5% (2003)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition





### Libraries and Internet Access

This is Ecuador's first contribution to the World Report.

Population Online: 4.4%

Estimated number of public libraries\*: N/A

Average number of people served by each public library service point: N/A

Public libraries offering Internet access: Less than 20%

Estimated number of research libraries\*\*: N/A

Research libraries offering Internet access: 21-40%

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: No

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: No

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: Yes, in all libraries

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access

in the library system in the last two years: No

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities



## Egypt

### **Responding institution: Alex Centre for Multi-media and Libraries**

This is Egypt's third contribution to the World Report. The information in this country summary relates to the estimated 122 public library service points in the country and the 340 research libraries.

In the 2001 contribution it was stated that "censorship plays a key role in all underdeveloped countries and Egypt is no exception." Several examples of censorship of books, media, and Internet were given and the situation regarding access to information in Egypt was described as "poor, although it has certainly developed in the last ten years". In 2003, no incidents or violations of intellectual freedom were reported in the country and this is also the case in 2005 with regards to actual violations. It is stressed, however, that the inaccessibility of 90% of governmental information greatly affects general access to information and research results. The fact that the Beacon of Freedom of Expression database is situated at Bibliotheca Al-

exandrina may have a positive effect on information access. However, human rights organisations report that an atmosphere not conducive to freedom of access to information continues to exist in the country.

Despite a fourfold increase in Internet penetration since the 2003 report, the proportion of the Egyptian population with access to the Internet remains extremely low at just over 4%. However, it appears more research libraries are now able to offer access than in 2003, and the situation in public libraries is also encouraging with 61-80% now able to offer access. The library association does not support the use of filtering software in libraries and it is not widespread. In addition to this access is free in all libraries, creating a situation that bodes well for freedom of access to information. The state has made extra funding available in the past two years for increased Internet access and the results of such a situation may well be seen in the 2007 World Report.

Regarding areas of special focus, no anti-terror legislation has been passed in the country that is likely to affect library users. Egypt's libraries are not involved in promoting HIV/AIDS awareness but have special programmes focusing on the promotion of women's literacy. Details of these activities are not provided.

The IFLA Internet Manifesto, the Glasgow Declaration, and a code of ethics have not been adopted and there are no intentions to do so in the next two years.

### **User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

Egypt has not passed anti-terror legislation that would adversely affect library users' intellectual freedom. The respondent does not voice an opinion on whether or not such legislation would impact on user privacy. There is also no response to the question regarding whether or not the keeping of user records is considered to affect the freedom of expression of the individual library Internet user.

### **Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

In the 2003 report no violations of intellectual freedom were reported. This year, the inaccessibility to governmental information resources is highlighted as a problem. Neither the public nor researchers have access to an estimated 90% of governmental information and this secrecy affects the quality of research results and the general level of information access of citizens.

Further to the respondent's comments, third party sources also reported various incidents of concern. In the Annual Report released by Amnesty International in May 2005, the status of restrictions on the freedom of expression and access to information during 2004 was described as followed: "People continued to be at risk of detention, trial and imprisonment in violation of their right to freedom of religion and expression." In addition to this, the bill introduced by President Mubarak in February 2004, aiming to abolish prison terms for press offences, seems to have failed to protect providers of information, as journalists and publishers have continued to be harassed, beaten and imprisoned.

In another incident in June 2004 the government granted the leading religious institution "al-Azhar Islamic Research Council" powers to broadly ban and confiscate material considered as a violation of religious principles, raising concerns of increased constraint of freedom of access to information.

More recently, in February 2005, the authorities in Egypt decided to suspend the new daily Egyptian newspaper "Al-Ghad" before its first edition was available, restricting the free flow of information to the citizens. Reasons for the suspension were unclear, but the first issue reportedly included articles criticized the electoral system and called for constitutional amendments.

#### **Sources:**

Amnesty International Report 2005:

<http://web.amnesty.org/report2005/egy-summary-eng>

IFEX, 11 February 2005:

<http://www.ifex.org/fr/content/view/full/64441/>

HIV/AIDS awareness

Libraries in Egypt have not been involved in any programmes to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS and no efforts have been made to provide information on the subject to members of the community unable to read.

Women and freedom of access to information

It is stated that libraries do have special programmes focusing on the promotion of women’s literacy, but no details of the programmes are provided. The question regarding libraries’ involvement in specifically promoting women’s access to information on social issues, financial matters, education, health or family planning has not been answered.

IFLA Internet Manifesto

The Internet Manifesto has not been adopted and there are no intentions to do so in the next two years.

An identical response to this question was given in 2003.

IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom

The situation with regards to the Glasgow Declaration is similar. The Declaration has not been adopted and there are no intentions to do so in the next two years. An identical response to this question was given in 2003.

Ethics

In the World Report 2003, it is indicated that a code of ethics has been adopted. It has now been clarified that the response only referred to the code of ethics of Bibliotheca Alexandrina, adopted in 2002. The national library association has not adopted a code and does not intend to do so in the next two years.

Main Indicators

Country Name:	Egypt
Population:	74,033,000
Main Language:	Arabic (official), English and French widely understood by educated classes
Literacy:	57.7 (2003)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition



### Libraries and Internet Access

The following section compares data and answers from 2005 with the 2003 and (where possible) 2001 IFLA/FAIFE World Reports and adds context from respondent's estimates regarding numbers of public and research libraries.

Population Online: 4.1% (2003: 0.85%; 2001: 0.65%)

Estimated number of public libraries\*: 122

Average number of people served by each public library service point: 606,828

Public libraries offering Internet access: 61-80% (2003: 21-40%)

Estimated number of research libraries\*\*: 340

Research libraries offering Internet access: 41-60% (2003: 21-40%)

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: No (2003: No)

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: No (2003: No)

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: Yes, in all libraries (2003: Yes, in all libraries)

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access

in the library system in the last two years: Yes

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities



## Estonia

### Responding institution: Estonian Library Association

This is Estonia's second contribution to the World Report series. This report refers to the 564 public library service points and the 536 research libraries in the country. The overall situation facing freedom of access to information in Estonia seems to be good, based on a reading of the questionnaire response. There have been no violations of intellectual freedom, and there has been no anti-terror legislation passed that affects library users.

Use of the Internet continues to grow in Estonia, with Internet penetration increasing from 30.35% in 2003 to 46.7% in 2005. Extra funding from state or library authorities continues to keep access free in all Estonian libraries and the number of public libraries offering access has increased from 61-80% to 81-100%. This is the same level of access that is experienced by the country's research libraries. The situation regarding Internet filtering in libraries has

changed since 2003 when the library association was not in favour of filtering, nor was the use of filtering software widespread. Now the association is in favour to a degree and the use of the software has also become to a degree widespread in the country's libraries. It is interesting to speculate the reasons behind this change - perhaps as access and use increases in libraries problems arise relating the types of online materials being viewed. The use of filtering software (with the aims of protecting children, preventing crime and safeguarding public morality) could be the logical consequence.

Regarding special issues, Estonian libraries are not currently involved in any initiatives to raise HIV/AIDS awareness, nor are they running any programmes that promote women's literacy or access to information.

The Estonian response indicates that neither the Internet Manifesto have been adopted, nor the Glasgow Declaration, and it makes no mention on whether

these initiatives will be adopted in the next two years. The Estonian library association adopted a code of ethics in 2001.

### **User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

The Estonian response indicates that no anti-terror legislation has been passed that adversely affects library user's intellectual freedom. It also indicates that keeping user records affects the freedom of expression of the individual library user.

### **Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

There are no reported violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years. The Estonian response did, however, detail some information resources that further explain the situation facing freedom of access to information in Estonia.

#### **Public Information Act**

[http://www.legaltext.ee/et/andmebaas/ava.asp?tyyp=SITE\\_ALL&ptyyp=I&m=000&query=Public+Information+Act&nups.x=13&nups.y=10](http://www.legaltext.ee/et/andmebaas/ava.asp?tyyp=SITE_ALL&ptyyp=I&m=000&query=Public+Information+Act&nups.x=13&nups.y=10)

#### **Personal Data Protection Act**

[http://www.legaltext.ee/et/andmebaas/ava.asp?tyyp=SITE\\_ALL&ptyyp=I&m=000&query=Public+Information+Act&nups.x=13&nups.y=10](http://www.legaltext.ee/et/andmebaas/ava.asp?tyyp=SITE_ALL&ptyyp=I&m=000&query=Public+Information+Act&nups.x=13&nups.y=10)

#### **Databases Act**

[http://www.legaltext.ee/et/andmebaas/ava.asp?tyyp=SITE\\_ALL&ptyyp=I&m=000&query=Public+Information+Act&nups.x=13&nups.y=10](http://www.legaltext.ee/et/andmebaas/ava.asp?tyyp=SITE_ALL&ptyyp=I&m=000&query=Public+Information+Act&nups.x=13&nups.y=10)

### **HIV/AIDS awareness**

Libraries in Estonia have not been involved in any programmes promoting HIV/AIDS awareness.

### **Women and freedom of access to information**

Likewise, libraries in Estonia have not been involved in initiatives designed to promote women's literacy or access to information.

### **IFLA Internet Manifesto**

Estonia has not adopted the Internet Manifesto, and makes no indication as to whether it will adopt it in the next two years or not.

### **IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom**

The Glasgow Declaration has not been adopted. There is no indication whether or not it will be adopted in the next two years.

### **Ethics**

The Estonian Library Association adopted a code of ethics in 2001. The respondent indicated that there have not been any real serious or specific problems concerning ethics. The principles of the Code have been used by working out the Professional Standard "Librarian II, IV, V" (2003).



### Libraries and Internet Access

The following section compares data and answers from 2005 with the 2003 IFLA/FAIFE World Report and adds context from respondent's estimates regarding numbers of public and research libraries.

Population Online: 46.7% (2003: 30.35%)

Estimated number of public libraries\*: 564

Average number of people served by each public library service point: 9629

Public libraries offering Internet access: 81-100% (2003: 61-80%)

Estimated number of research libraries\*\*: 536, including 26 university libraries and 512 school libraries

Research libraries offering Internet access: 81-100% (2003: 81-100%)

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: Yes, to a certain degree in order to protect children, prevent crime and safeguard public morality (2003: No)

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: Yes, to a certain degree (2003: No)

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: Yes, in all libraries (2003: Yes, in all libraries)

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access in the library system in the last two years: Yes

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities

### Main Indicators

Country Name:	Estonia
Population:	5,431,000
Main Language:	Estonian (official), Russian, Ukrainian, Finnish, other
Literacy:	99.8% (2003)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition





### Responding institution: N/A

This is Ethiopia's third contribution to the World Report. With regards to the estimated number of public and research libraries in Ethiopia, the respondent provides no information.

Information about anti-terror legislation being passed could not be provided either but such legislation is considered to impact on user privacy. Intellectual freedom in the country is under pressure. Though no incidents or violations have been reported in 2005, the response in 2003 reported on a growing undue state of control and suppression of the media and concluded that freedom of access to information and freedom of expression in Ethiopia were in danger. This picture of the situation corresponds with that of independent sources from 2005, who describe a situation of deteriorating press freedom in the country.

Levels of Internet use are still extremely low in Ethiopia. Overall penetration has barely increased since 2003 and levels of access in public libraries has remained at the lowest level. Worryingly, levels of access in research libraries appear to have fallen, with the respondent indicating that less than 20% of research libraries offering Internet access - down from 41-60% in 2003. Access is still charged for in both sets of libraries. There appears to have been a change regarding harmful uses of the Internet in Ethiopia - whereas filtering software was not endorsed by the library association in 2003, and its use was not widespread, in 2005 the association is in favour to a degree. The Ethiopian respondent indicated every possible reason for this position, from protection of children through to protection of public morality and such a response indicates at best a worrying familiarity with some of the more offensive uses of the Internet or at worst a nervous disposition to some of the materials found online. It might be that certain experiences between 2003-2005 have led to a new position on behalf of the

to a new position on behalf of the library community but it is difficult to tell.

Regarding areas of special focus, libraries in Ethiopia are to some degree involved in promoting HIV/AIDS awareness but not to members of the community unable to read. Libraries do not have special programmes focusing on the promotion of women's literacy. However, the British Council Library in Addis Ababa promotes women's access to social and educational information.

No information has been provided with regards to the status for the adoption of the IFLA Internet Manifesto, the Glasgow Declaration and a code of ethics. In 2003 it was stated that neither had been adopted but no indications given as to future intentions.

### **User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

The respondent did not indicate whether or not anti-terror legislation that would adversely affect library users' intellectual freedom has been passed in Ethiopia but such legislation would be considered to impact on user privacy. Also, the keeping of user records is considered to affect the freedom of expression of the individual library Internet user.

### **Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

No incidents that adversely affect freedom of access to information and freedom of expression in Ethiopia were reported by the respondent. However, throughout 2004 the government's newly proposed

media law was criticized by international human rights and media organisations for being harsher than the existing Press Law [DPL], under which a high number of journalists had been imprisoned. In 2003 a ban was imposed on the Ethiopian Free Press Journalists Association, a private media group investigating media abuses and also opposing the newly proposed media law, although a court overruled this ban in December 2004, as reported The Amnesty International Report of 2005.

According to the International Press Freedom Review of 2004, a letter signed by many IFEX members was issued to the Ethiopian government, as it was believed that the ban of the journalists' organisation was an attempt to "ensure not only that the independent media no longer has a distinctive voice in Ethiopia but also to prevent internal criticism of the new repressive press law that is being prepared for passage through the Ethiopian legislature." The press freedom review also explains how the Article 19 organisation pointed out that "The renewed power of the government over the content of print media will affect press freedom both directly and indirectly" and that "The strengthening of government control could afford more opportunities for censorship, and defamation laws are often exploited in order to control the dissemination of unpopular opinions".

Sources:

Amnesty International Report 2005:  
<http://web.amnesty.org/report2005/eth-summary-eng>  
 IPI World Press Freedom Review 2004:  
<http://www.freemedia.at/wpfr/Africa/ethiopia.htm>  
 RAP21 African Press Network for the 21st Century,  
 January 2003:

<http://www.rap21.org/rubrique345.html>

### HIV/AIDS awareness

Libraries are to some degree involved in programmes that raise awareness of HIV/AIDS, in that posters are displayed and literature on the subject made available. In the capital city Addis Ababa a few public libraries are actively engaged in educational and informative activities. Libraries have not made efforts to provide information on the subject to members of the community unable to read.

### Women and freedom of access to information

Libraries do not have in special programmes focusing on the promotion of women's literacy, and neither do they specifically promote women's access to information on social issues, the economy, education, health or family planning. There is one exception to this, as the British Council Library in Addis Ababa is to some degree involved in the promotion of women's access to social and educational information.

### IFLA Internet Manifesto

The status of 2003 was that the Manifesto had not been adopted and no indications were given of intentions to do so in the next two years. In 2005, no information has been provided.

### IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom

The situation regarding the Glasgow Declaration is similar to that of the Internet Manifesto - in 2003 the declaration had not been adopted and no indications were given of intentions to do so in the next two years. In 2005, no information has been provided.

### Ethics

In 2003, it was reported that no code of ethics had been adopted and no indication was given as to whether or not a code would be adopted in the next two years. In 2005, no information has been provided on the issue.

### Main Indicators

Country Name:	Ethiopia
Population:	77,431,000
Main Language:	Amharic, Tigrinya, Oromigna, Guaragigna, Somali, Arabic, other local languages, English (major foreign language taught in schools)
Literacy:	42.7% (2003)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition



### Libraries and Internet Access

The following section compares data and answers from 2005 with the 2003 and (where possible) 2001 IFLA/FAIFE World Reports and adds context from respondent's estimates regarding numbers of public and research libraries.

Population Online: 0.1% (2003: 0.03%; 2001: 0.1%)

Estimated number of public libraries\*: N/A

Average number of people served by each public library service point: N/A

Public libraries offering Internet access: Less than 20% (2003: Less than 20%)

Estimated number of research libraries\*\*: N/A

Research libraries offering Internet access: Less than 20% (2003: 41-60%)

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: N/A (2003: Yes, to a certain degree in order to protect children)

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: Yes, to a certain degree. Motivations for this include: protection of children; protection of national security; safeguarding of religious values; safeguarding of national ethos/culture; preventing crime; safeguarding public morality. (2003: No)

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: No (2003: No)

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access in the library system in the last two years: No

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities



### Responding institution: Fijian Library Association

This is Fiji's second contribution to the World Report series. This year's response refers to the country's 8 public library service points and 8 research libraries. The overall intellectual freedom situation in the country appears at this point to be dependent on the passing of a freedom of information bill. There is also a draft media bill that could have implications for access to information in the country. Both bills are detailed below.

The 2005 response from Fiji throws up some interesting questions regarding Internet use in the country's libraries. The responding institution is the same as in 2003, although the individual responding is different. What is immediately apparent is that the levels of access in the country's research libraries appear to have fallen from the highest in 2003 (81-100% providing access) to the lowest in 2005 (less than 20% providing access). This can be explained by the respondent's

interpretation of the phrase 'research libraries' - the Fijian respondents included school libraries in this category and pointed out in an email that very few schools in Fiji have computers let alone access to the Internet. Those schools that do provide access generally do so within computer labs used for teaching the Computer Science Curriculum. Consequently, access is generally not available in the library.

Regarding filtering, there appears to have been a change regarding harmful uses of the Internet similar to that seen in Ethiopia, although the changing situation in the past two years is difficult to interpret. For example in 2003 the use of filtering software in libraries was to a certain degree widespread while in 2005 it is not widespread. On the other hand the library association was not in favour of filtering in 2003 but now it is in favour to a degree, motivated by every single reason available for the respondent to indicate. The situation was clarified by the respondents who pointed out that the Fijian Library Association does not really have an "association" position on

Fiji

internet filtering, This is largely because as members are not providing access to the Internet within their libraries they do have to worry about it. The respondents state that if the association were to consider Internet filtering, then all the reasons indicated would be appropriate eg national Security, etc.

Finally, the response placed great emphasis on the high cost of Internet access in Fiji and in the Pacific in general. In terms of affordability, Pacific islanders typically face connectivity charges that are among the highest in the world. Subscription and usage charges for dial up access to the Internet range from US\$3 to US\$175 per month, with an average of US\$50. On an annual basis this amounts to one quarter to one half of the average annual per capita GDP in many countries and is clearly unaffordable by the majority of people. The price of fulltime Internet access via a 64 Kbps leased line varies much more widely than dial-up access, from US\$700 to US\$5000 per month. These prices are on average 5 times higher, and range to as much as 20 times higher, than in APEC developing countries. Despite this situation, Fiji's libraries offer free access to the Internet in both public and research institutions.

Regarding the special areas of focus, anti-terror legislation is not currently affecting freedom of access to information. In the other two areas, HIV/AIDS awareness and women's access to information, libraries in Fiji are making solid efforts to address these issues.

The Fijian library association has not adopted a code of ethics, the Internet Manifesto or the Glasgow Declaration, but it does expect to move forward

in all three areas in the next two years.

### **User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

No anti-terror legislation has been passed that affects library users, although the respondent suggests that future legislation could impact on user privacy. The response also indicates that Fijian Library Association believes the keeping of user records to impact on individual's freedom of expression.

### **Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

The lack of Freedom of Information (FOI) legislation is of concern to the Fijian library community. The Government had promised that legislation would be tabled in its current term but this has not happened. Apparently the Constitutional Citizens Forum (CCF) has developed a draft bill and is looking for a politician who is willing to introduce it in Parliament. Other notable developments include the introduction of a draft Fiji Media Bill by the government in 2003 which raised many questions and aroused the suspicion of those working in the media who strongly opposed any attempts at regulation. At the same time, the Methodist Church and some politicians are questioning the need for a western-style, free media in Fiji.

#### **Sources:**

Fijilive.com, 17 May 2003:

<http://www.fijilive.com/archive/show/member/news/2003/05/17/17z5.html>

Fijilive.com, 23 Nov 2002:

<http://www.fijilive.com/archive/show/member/news/2002/11/23/23x.html>



## HIV/AIDS awareness

Libraries in Fiji have been involved in HIV/AIDS awareness in a limited way, mainly through displays and limited distribution of brochures. There is room for more 'joined up' efforts in future.

## Women and freedom of access to information

There are programmes in Fijian libraries that focus on women's literacy such as displays addressing the issue of female education on International Women's Day or Mother's Day. In order to specifically promote the issue of women's access to information libraries also sporadically hold displays of relevant material, often in conjunction with the aforementioned celebrations.

## IFLA Internet Manifesto

The Internet Manifesto has not been adopted, but it is hoped that it will be adopted in the next two years.

## IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom

Likewise, the Glasgow Declaration has not yet been adopted but it hopefully will be in the next two years.

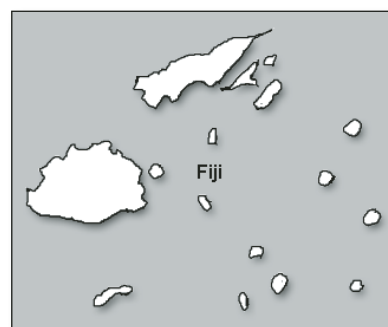
## Ethics

The Fijian Library Association has not adopted a code of ethics, but it intends to adopt one in the next two years.

### Main Indicators

Country Name:	Fiji
Population:	848,000
Main Language:	English (official), Fijian, Hindustani
Literacy:	93.7% (2003)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition



Libraries and Internet Access

The following section compares data and answers from 2005 with the 2003 IFLA/FAIFE World Report and adds context from respondent's estimates regarding numbers of public and research libraries.

Population Online:	6.5% (2003: 1.75%)
Estimated number of public libraries*:	8
Average number of people served by each public library service point:	106,000
Public libraries offering Internet access:	Less than 20% (2003: Less than 20%)
Estimated number of research libraries**:	50
Research libraries offering Internet access:	Less than 20% (2003: 81-100%)
Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals:	Yes, to a certain degree. Motivations for this include: protection of children; protection of national security; safeguarding of religious values; safeguarding of national ethos/culture; preventing crime; safeguarding public morality (2003: No)
Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries:	No (2003: Yes, to a certain degree with the intention of protecting children and safeguarding public morality)
Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers:	Yes, in all libraries (2003: Yes, in all libraries)
Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access in the library system in the last two years:	No

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries  
\* \* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities



### Responding institution: Finnish Library Association

Finland is responding to the World Report for the second time, having previously contributed in 2003. The Finnish response, which refers to activities in 968 public library service points and 600 research libraries, contains little additional information and based purely on the questionnaire response it would seem that intellectual freedom is currently in a good state in the country. No violations of intellectual freedom are reported, and no anti-terror legislation has been passed that might negatively impact on library users.

Levels of Internet access in Finland are very healthy. Internet penetration has increased 10% since 2003 and 81-100% of all libraries in the country are able to provide Internet access to users – free of charge. As mentioned below, the library association in Finland is currently formulating its position regarding filtering of Internet access in libraries. In 2003 the association was against filtering and its use was not widespread

but, like in many library associations, it appears the debate surrounding filtering goes on and needs reviewing.

Regarding the other areas of special focus, libraries in Finland have not been involved in promoting HIV/AIDS awareness or women's access to information in any way.

There is a code of ethics for Finnish librarians but the respondent indicates that it is not actively implemented. The Internet Manifesto and Glasgow Declaration have not been adopted but the respondent expressed a hope that they both would be in the next two years.

### User privacy and anti-terror legislation

No anti-terror legislation has been passed in Finland that would adversely affect the intellectual freedom of library users. The respondent did indicate that keeping user records harmed individuals' freedom of expression.

**Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

There have been no reported violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years.

**HIV/AIDS awareness**

Libraries in Finland have not been involved in any programmes promoting HIV/AIDS awareness.

**Women and freedom of access to information**

Likewise, libraries in Finland have not been involved in initiatives designed to promote women’s literacy or access to information.

**IFLA Internet Manifesto**

The Internet Manifesto has not been adopted. It is hoped that it will be in the next two years.

**IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom**

The Glasgow Declaration has also not been adopted. Again, it is hoped that it will be in the coming two years.

**Ethics**

The Finnish Library Association adopted a code of ethics in 1989 but the respondent indicated that it has not been actively implemented. It is not clear if this means the code is no longer relevant and in need of updating, or that it has not been promoted among librarians recently.

**Main Indicators**

Country Name:	Finland
Population:	5,249,000
Main Language:	Finnish 93.4% (official), Swedish 5.9% (official), small Sami- and Russian-speaking minorities
Literacy:	100% (2000)
Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition	



### Libraries and Internet Access

The following section compares data and answers from 2005 with the 2003 IFLA/FAIFE World Report and adds context from respondent's estimates regarding numbers of public and research libraries.

Population Online: 62.1% (2003: 51.89%)

Estimated number of public libraries\*: 968

Average number of people served by each public library service point: 5423

Public libraries offering Internet access: 81-100% (2003: 81-100%)

Estimated number of research libraries\*\*: 600

Research libraries offering Internet access: 81-100% (2003: 81-100%)

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: At the time of response (April 2005) the Finnish Library Association was involved in an active discussion on filtering. It is consequently in the process of formulating its view on these questions (2003: No)

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: See 2005 response to question above (2003: No)

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: Yes, in all libraries (2003: Yes, in all libraries)

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access in the library system in the last two years: Yes

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities



### Responding institution: Georgian Library Association

Georgia responded to the World Report in 2001 and 2003. In 2003 the response from Georgia came from the Association of Information Specialists (AIS) of Georgia. This year the response we are using for the report comes from the national library association. While this obviously makes comparing the response from 2003 with this year's more difficult, we felt it was important to follow our methodology which seeks the opinions of the national library association over other library institutions within a country. The report below is referring to the estimated 2000 public library service points and 2000 research libraries in the country. The respondent did not comment on the overall situation regarding intellectual freedom in the country but additional sources used detail a worrying state for freedom of access to information. It appears there are court-imposed delays in releasing official information, government secrecy in regards to information and a media situation that favours the state and

media owners over the reader's right to know.

In comparison with the 2003 report, at first glance it appears little has changed in the last two years regarding Internet access in Georgia's libraries. While Internet penetration in the country shows signs of improvement, up from 0.5% in 2003 to 3.4% this year, levels of access in the country's public and research libraries appear to have stayed the same as those indicated by AIS - with less than 20% of institutions providing access to the Internet. Likewise, the library association's position on filtering (not in favour) appears to have stayed consistent, and the use of the software is still not widespread. However, in 2003 it was indicated by AIS that Internet access was free in all libraries. In 2005 the national association indicates that all libraries now charge for access. What the exact situation was in 2003 is hard to tell due to the difference in responding institutions but if all access is now charged for then this is definitely a change for the worse - especially for those without financial resources to go online.

It would appear that libraries in Georgia are not yet involved in any programmes regarding HIV/AIDS awareness or increasing information access for women. Likewise, there are no reports of any problems in the final area of special focus, anti-terror legislation, although the respondent does indicate that the keeping of user records could be considered to harm freedom of expression.

The Georgian Library Association adopted a code of ethics in 2001 but has yet to adopt the Internet Manifesto or the Glasgow Declaration. The respondent indicates that both hope to be adopted in the next two years.

### **User privacy and ant-terror legislation**

There are no reports of any anti-terror legislation being passed that affects the intellectual freedom of library users, and the respondent did not believe any future legislation, if enacted, would impact upon user privacy. It was indicated, however, that keeping user records does affect the freedom of expression of the individual library user.

### **Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

Although the respondent stated there were no reports of incidents of violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years, there are third party sources with information on intellectual freedom in Georgia. According to an article by the Georgian English newspaper "The Messenger" of 10th May 2005, there are still several problems with freedom of information in Georgia. Amongst other things

are the long delays in court cases where decision-making on cases of freedom of information takes longer than usual. At the same time secrecy in the government is increasing and the government is urged to renew its commitment to open information. Moreover, according to The World Press Freedom Review 2004 by the International Press Institution, newspapers in the country have been fined large amounts by the government, leading them to face bankruptcy. In a report by Article 19, focusing on "Freedom of information and the media in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia", the explanation of the widespread self-censorship of newspapers in Georgia lies in the state owned media, which inhibits journalists and other information providers from delivering accurate and uncensored information. The report states that the sources for funding of the media are often closely related to politics and businesses and therefore, news is more or less reflected by the political views of the owners, which threaten the right to free expression and the reader's right to know. For the same reasons journalists fear being sacked if they do not follow the editorial line, having a negative effect on human rights in the Georgian information society.

#### **Sources:**

Article 19, April 2005: Under Lock and Key, Freedom of Information and the media in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. <http://www.ifex.org/download/en/UnderLock&Key.pdf>

The Messenger - Georgia's English Language Daily, 10 May 2005: <http://www.messenger.com.ge/>

World Press Freedom Report, IPI (International Press Institute) 2004: <http://www.freemedia.at/wpfr/Europe/georgia.htm>

The respondent supplied the following link of inter-



est to those studying freedom of information laws:  
 Georgian Young Lawyers Association: Analysis of the  
 Court Practice Related to Freedom of Information:  
<http://www.gyla.ge/sasamartlo%20praqtika-ENG.pdf>

### HIV/AIDS awareness

Libraries in Georgia have not been involved in programmes to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS, nor have they made efforts to provide this information to those unable to read.

### Women and freedom of access to information

Georgian libraries have not been involved in programmes focusing on the promotion of women's literacy, nor has there been any special efforts made to promote women's access to information on topics such as social information, education or health.

### IFLA Internet Manifesto

The Georgian Library Association reports that the Internet Manifesto has not been adopted, but it is intended that it will be adopted in the next two years.

### IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom

Likewise, the Glasgow Declaration has not been adopted, but it is intended that it will be adopted in the next two years.

### Ethics

The Georgian Library Association adopted a code of ethics in 2001.

### Main Indicators

Country Name:	Georgia
Population:	4,474,000
Main Language:	Georgian 71% (official), Russian 9%, Armenian 7%, Azeri 6%, other 7%. Note: Abkhaz is the official language in Abkhazia
Literacy:	99% (1999)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition



### Libraries and Internet Access

The following section compares data and answers from 2005 with the 2003 and (where possible) 2001 IFLA/FAIFE World Reports and adds context from respondent's estimates regarding numbers of public and research libraries.

Population Online: 3.4% (2003: 0.5%; 2001: 0.4%)

Estimated number of public libraries\*: 2000

Average number of people served by each public library service point: 2237

Public libraries offering Internet access: Less than 20% (2003: Less than 20%)

Estimated number of research libraries\*\*: 2000

Research libraries offering Internet access: Less than 20% (2003: Less than 20%)

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: No (2003: No)

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: No (2003: No)

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: No (2003: Yes)

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access

in the library system in the last two years: No

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities



## Germany

### **Responding institution: Bibliothek & Information Deutschland (Bid) - Federal Union of German Library and Information Associations**

Germany responded to the World Report in 2001 and 2003. This year's report is referring to 10,584 public library service points in the country, and 1,181 research libraries.

Regarding the intellectual freedom situation in the country, the response contains information on anti-terror legislation passed in 2002 that allows for the investigation of library records by law enforcement agencies if sanctioned by a public prosecutor. The response suggests that in the past few years records have been requested without this sanction and libraries have refused them. It would appear that there currently exists enough oversight of proceedings to ensure that libraries are able to protect user privacy - without the public prosecutor's sanction libraries are well within their rights to refuse to hand over information.

Internet use throughout Germany has risen in the past two years, with overall penetration increasing from 38.43% to 56%. Levels of access in the libraries have remained the same as in 2003 however, with 61-80% of public libraries providing charged for access, and 81-100% of research libraries providing free access. While the library association is to a degree in favouring of filtering Internet use to protect children, the specifics of German law also dictate that access to illegal materials, such as neo-Nazi propaganda, may be prevented through Internet Service Provider filtering. Filtering is therefore a technical barrier to prevent access to information that is against the law. Despite this, the respondent indicates that research libraries should be providing non-filtered Internet access.

German libraries have organised programmes in our other areas of special focus for this report, HIV/AIDS awareness and women's access to information. The programmes for women in particular are impressive, and the result of partnerships and a focus on IT.

The Internet Manifesto and Glasgow have been adopted and seem to have become implemented in the daily work of libraries. A code of ethics is not currently in place, but it is indicated one will be adopted in the next two years.

### **User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

Anti-terror legislation has been passed in Germany and came into effect on January 1st 2002. However, anti-terror laws only authorise agencies to investigate library user records in case of urgent suspicion and only if the investigation is officially ordered by a public prosecutor. In a few cases in the last few years, some authorities have asked for user records without previously obtaining the public prosecutor's order. Users have only very sporadically and only verbally expressed reluctance to use library materials because of this situation, and this reluctance appears to be declining as time goes on. The German respondent indicates however that the keeping of user records does impact on library users' freedom of expression and if more legislation is passed in the future it is certain to impact on user privacy.

Interestingly, the German response mentions that some requests from law enforcement agencies for library records have been concerned with more mainstream acts of illegality such as theft or assault. While libraries have refused access to records in these cases there is cause for worry here. Anti-terror legislation is often accused of being open to 'mission-creep', whereby legislation that starts out as being targeted against specific activities moves on to being used in everyday criminal investigations. This is a worry expressed about the PATRIOT Act in the

USA, where portions of the act may have been used in criminal investigations into money laundering for example. At the moment German libraries are standing firm against interference from law enforcement, but the situation must be monitored with vigilance to ensure that mission creep does not set in.

### **Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

There have been no reported violations of intellectual freedom in the last two years. The respondent supplied the following link to a report from Freedom House that summarises the German situation over the past ten years:

[www.freedomhouse.org/research/freeworld/2003/countryratings/germany.htm](http://www.freedomhouse.org/research/freeworld/2003/countryratings/germany.htm)

### **HIV/AIDS awareness**

German libraries have been involved in programmes to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS. Public authorities and private foundations produce brochures, posters and other information materials and then make them available to nearly all libraries, including children's and youth libraries. At present however, there are no programmes disseminating information to members of the community unable to read.

### **Women and freedom of access to information**

German libraries do have programmes focusing on the promotion of women's literacy. The special programmes focus mainly on the use of the Internet. Many public libraries participated in 2002 and 2003

in a programme called 'Frauen ans Netz' (Women to the Net - [www.frauen-ans-netz.de](http://www.frauen-ans-netz.de)) which was an initiative by the federal ministry, a major women's journal and others to increase women's user rate to reach 50%. Libraries provide in the framework of this project free Internet access specifically for women. Libraries also offer training courses especially for women in the use of the library or in the use of the Internet. In addition, some libraries offer specific language materials and meeting points for female immigrants. Regarding specific programmes for offering women access to information materials on health, education or family planning, information courses and meetings are organised mainly by smaller public libraries or branch libraries.

### IFLA Internet Manifesto

The Internet Manifesto has been adopted. Its implementation can be seen in free access to libraries for everybody, on-site use free of charge, most service

offers free of charge, special offers for handicapped users, guided tours and information courses for children and youth, and cultural events in the library.

### IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom

The Glasgow Declaration has also been adopted. Regarding its implementation, German libraries regard themselves as institutions to support lifelong learning. They offer information for everybody in all kinds of media format. They have no discrimination of users, and no censorship. The privacy of users is strictly protected.

### Ethics

The German library association has not adopted a code of ethics but intends to adopt one in the next two years.

#### Main Indicators

Country Name:	Germany
Population:	82,689,000
Main Language:	German
Literacy:	99% (1997)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition



### Libraries and Internet Access

The following section compares data and answers from 2005 with the 2003 and (where possible) 2001 IFLA/FAIFE World Reports and adds context from respondent's estimates regarding numbers of public and research libraries.

Population Online: 56% (2003: 38.43%; 2001: 24.28%)

Estimated number of public libraries\*: 10,584 (DBS - German Library Statistics 2003)

Average number of people served by each public library service point: 7813

Public libraries offering Internet access: 61-80% (2003: 61-80%)

Estimated number of research libraries\*\*: 1,181 (DBS - German Library Statistics 2003).  
These figures include regional libraries, university libraries, polytechnic libraries, special libraries but not school libraries

Research libraries offering Internet access: 81-100% (2003: 81-100%)

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: Yes to a certain degree in order to protect children (2003: Yes, to a certain degree in order to protect children)

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: Yes, to a certain degree. However, in research libraries filtering is not in use at all, and there should be no filtering software (2003: Yes, to a certain degree)

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: Yes, in research libraries only. The respondent indicated that Internet access is free in nearly all public libraries. Where a fee is charged it is set as low as possible. (2003: Yes, in research libraries only)

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access in the library system in the last two years: No

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities



### **Responding institution: Ghana Library Association**

Ghana contributed to the World Report for the first time in 2003. This summary refers to the 21 public library service points (one main library, 10 regional libraries and 10 branch libraries) and 14 research libraries in the country.

No anti-terror legislation has been passed in Ghana. Based on the library association's response, the situation regarding intellectual freedom seems to be on the right track. No violations of intellectual freedom have occurred in the last two years and this was also the case in 2003. According to Amnesty International, the National Reconciliation Commission issued a report in October 2004 on violations of human rights committed under Ghana's periods of unconstitutional rule since its independence. As per the end of 2004 the report has not been published.

It is difficult to get an accurate picture of Internet use in Ghana and its libraries. The already very low overall penetration rates appear to have fallen slightly since 2003, and access levels in public libraries have dropped from 21-40% providing access to less than 20%. On the other hand, the 2005 response indicates that 81-100% of research libraries are providing access - up from 61-80% in 2003. Access in all types of library is charged for, and use of filtering software is now to a degree widespread (it was not widespread in 2003). Many motivations are listed for the library association's inclination towards filtering software, all motivations offered in fact, with the exception of safeguarding religious values. In 2003 the response was very similar, giving the impression that the library community in Ghana is uncomfortable with the types of information potentially available on the Internet.

Regarding areas of special focus, Ghana's libraries are involved in promoting HIV/AIDS awareness but have not provided information on the subject to members

of the community unable to read. Libraries do not have special programmes focusing on the promotion of women's literacy.

The library association has not adopted the IFLA Internet Manifesto, the Glasgow Declaration, or a code of ethics. However, a positive change of attitude has happened compared to 2003 where it was stated that there were no intentions to adopt the Declaration or a code of ethics. Now the association intends to adopt both initiatives within the next two years. Regarding the Internet Manifesto, the intentions of the association are the same as in 2003 - to adopt it in the next two years.

### **User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

Anti-terror legislation that would adversely affect library users' intellectual freedom has not been passed in Ghana. The question about whether or not such legislation would impact on user privacy has not been answered. However, in the opinion of the respondent the keeping of user records is considered to affect the freedom of expression of the individual library Internet user.

### **Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

As was the case in 2003, no incidents that adversely affect freedom of access to information and freedom of expression have occurred in Ghana in the last two years.

Further Information:

Amnesty International 2005 Report:

<http://web.amnesty.org/report2005/gha-summary-eng>

### **HIV/AIDS awareness**

Libraries are involved in programmes that raise awareness of HIV/AIDS by arranging exhibitions of AIDS literature and setting up posters - especially on World AIDS Day. Libraries have not made efforts to provide information on the subject to members of the community unable to read.

### **Women and freedom of access to information**

Libraries do not have special programmes focusing on the promotion of women's literacy, and neither do they specifically promote women's access to information on social issues, financial issues, education, health or family planning.

### **IFLA Internet Manifesto**

The Ghana Library Association has not adopted the Manifesto but it intends to do so in the next two years. This response is identical to that of the 2003 World Report.

### **IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom**

The Glasgow Declaration has not been adopted either but the library association intends to do so in the next two years. This is a positive change of attitude compared to 2003 where it was stated that there were no intentions to adopt the Declaration.



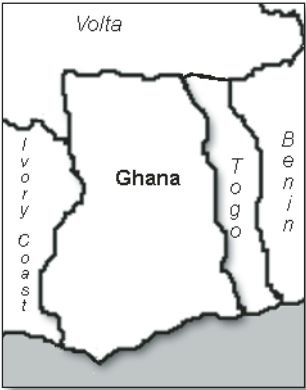
Ethics

The Ghana Library Association has not adopted a code of ethics but intends to adopt one in the next

two years. Again we see the same positive development from 2003 as the association now intends to adopt a code of ethics in the next two years.

Main Indicators

Country Name:	Ghana
Population:	22,113,000
Main Language:	English (official), African languages (including Akan, Moshi-Dagomba, Ewe, and Ga)
Literacy:	74.8% (2003)
Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition	



### Libraries and Internet Access

The following section compares data and answers from 2005 with the 2003 IFLA/FAIFE World Report and adds context from respondent's estimates regarding numbers of public and research libraries.

Population Online: 0.8% (2003: 0.99%)

Estimated number of public libraries\*: 1 headquarters library, 10 regional libraries and about 10 branch libraries. There are also several community libraries

Average number of people served by each public library service point: N/A

Public libraries offering Internet access: Less than 20% (2003: 21-40%)

Estimated number of research libraries\*\*: 14 university libraries (public and private), 10 polytechnic libraries, 15 science and technology based libraries, about 50 special subject area libraries

Research libraries offering Internet access: 81-100% (2003: 61-80%)

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: Yes, to a certain degree. Motivations for this include: protection of children; protection of national security; safeguarding national ethos/culture; preventing crime; safeguarding public morality. (2003: Yes. Motivations for this include: protection of children; protection of national security; safeguarding of religious values; preventing crime; safeguarding public morality.)

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: Yes, to a certain degree (2003: No)

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: No (2003: No)

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access in the library system in the last two years: Yes

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities



### **Responding institution: Univesity of Guam RFK Library**

This is Guam's second contribution to the World Report series. The library community in the country is small with four public libraries and two research libraries and the response is straightforward with little extra information. It appears there have been no violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years in the country that would affect libraries.

Since the 2003 World Report the number of Internet users in Guam has increased greatly. Internet penetration is now 29.4% - nearly ten times the figure of 2003. In the libraries however, Internet access appears to have fallen. The 2003 response from the same institution reported that 81-100% of public and research libraries offered Internet access; in 2005 it is 41-60% of public libraries and 61-80% of public libraries. The library service is not extensive though, with only 4 public library service points and 2 research libraries, so it must be hoped that the cutbacks in access have

not impacted too greatly on library users. Whatever the situation, access is still free of charge in all libraries. No responses were received this year regarding filtering of Internet access.

Guam has not passed any anti-terror legislation that would affect libraries, although as a US territory it is actually subject to the US PATRIOT Act. In the other special areas of focus, HIV/AIDS awareness and women's access to information, libraries in the country are not currently involved in any programmes promoting these issues.

Finally, Guam has not adopted a code of ethics, the Internet Manifesto or the Glasgow Declaration. It is not indicated if any of these areas will be tackled in the next two years.

### **User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

There are no reports of any anti-terror legislation passed in Guam that affects libraries but following

enquires the respondent confirmed that as Guam is a US territory the USA PATRIOT act applies to Guam's libraries. In theory therefore, the same consequences for intellectual freedom described in the United States country report (and in Marc Lampson's paper) are feasible in Guam. Despite this, no violations of intellectual freedom as a result have been reported. The respondent does think that the keeping of user records impacts upon individual's freedom of expression.

### **Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

There have been no reports of violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years.

### **HIV/AIDS awareness**

Libraries in Guam have not been involved in any programmes to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS.

### **Women and freedom of access to information**

Likewise, libraries are not currently involved in any specific efforts to promote women's literacy or access to information.

### **IFLA Internet Manifesto**

The Internet Manifesto has not been adopted. It is not indicated if the library community intends to do so in the next two years.

### **IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom**

The Glasgow Declaration is not yet adopted either, and there is no indication whether it will be in the next two years.

### **Ethics**

Librarians on Guam have not adopted a code of ethics. It is not indicated if they intend to do so in the next two years.

### Libraries and Internet Access

The following section compares data and answers from 2005 with the 2003 IFLA/FAIFE World Report and adds context from respondent's estimates regarding numbers of public and research libraries.

Population Online: 29.4% (2003: 3.11%)

Estimated number of public libraries\*: 4

Average number of people served by each public library service point: 42,500

Public libraries offering Internet access: 41-60% (2003: 81-100%)

Estimated number of research libraries\*\*: 2

Research libraries offering Internet access: 61-80% (2003: 81-100%)

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: N/A (2003: No)

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: N/A (2003: No)

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: Yes, in all libraries (2003: Yes, in all libraries)

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access  
in the library system in the last two years: N/A

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities

### Main Indicators

Country Name: Guam

Population: 170,000

Main Language: English, Chamorro, Japanese

Literacy: 99% (1990)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition





### Responding institution: Hong Kong Library Association

Hong Kong, which is a Special Administrative Region (SAR) of China, is contributing to the World Report series for the second time. This response refers to the country's 72 public libraries and 28 research libraries. Overall, it would appear that access to information in libraries is in good shape, although the progress of an anti-sedition bill is being monitored for its effects on freedom of information in Hong Kong.

Internet use in Hong Kong has increased to a very high level since 2003. Internet penetration stood at nearly 60% at the time of the last report, and now it stands at 69.3%. This level of development is reflected in library access, with 81-100% of both public and research libraries offering Internet access to users, free of charge. The responses indicate no change in attitudes towards filtering software or its use since 2003, although the respondent added comments that

the software is widespread in public libraries but not in university libraries.

Regarding special issues, no anti-terror legislation has been passed that could adversely affect library users. When it comes to HIV/AIDS awareness, libraries in Hong Kong have been involved in programmes to raise the issue with library users, and they have also made efforts to increase women's access to information.

The library association has adopted a code of ethics but it is yet to adopt formally the Internet Manifesto and Glasgow Declaration, despite the incorporation of the documents' principles into everyday library work.

### User privacy and anti-terror legislation

The Hong Kong response indicated that no anti-terror legislation has been passed that would affect library users, and that none is proposed. The respond-

ent believes that keeping user records does harm library users' freedom of expression.

### **Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

It would appear that the passing of an anti-sedition bill in Hong Kong might affect freedom of information in the area. Information on this and freedom of expression in Hong Kong can be found at: <http://law.hku.hk/lawof/MembersIndexes/BibList.asp?FatherID=20312&GroupID=0&SortType=1>

More links and information resources relating to Hong Kong can be found at: [www.hkpl.gov.hk](http://www.hkpl.gov.hk)

### **HIV/AIDS awareness**

Libraries in Hong Kong have raised awareness of HIV/AIDS through book displays, exhibitions and web links to related information resources. Specific efforts to target members of the community unable to read have not yet taken place however.

### **Women and freedom of access to information**

There are some specific programmes in place to promote women's literacy, including a central steering committee set up by the government to promote the use of information technology by women. Hong Kong's libraries have also endeavoured to pro-

mote women's access to issues such as health care and education through weblinks to the related information sources. These can be found at [www.hkpl.gov.hk](http://www.hkpl.gov.hk)

### **IFLA Internet Manifesto**

While the Internet Manifesto has not been officially adopted, it has been unofficially accepted by the library association. The respondent reports that computer workstations are installed at public, school and academic libraries for free access for readers - in keeping with the spirit of the Manifesto. It is hoped that the Manifesto will be officially adopted in the next two years.

### **IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom**

Like the Internet Manifesto, the Glasgow Declaration has not been officially adopted but, in accordance with its spirit, readers are encouraged to make free use of the information and library materials made available by the libraries. It is hoped to officially adopt the Declaration in the next two years.

### **Ethics**

Hong Kong adopted a code of ethics in 1995. The code is publicised on the library association's website for members' inspection.

## Libraries and Internet Access

The following section compares data and answers from 2005 with the 2003 IFLA/FAIFE World Report and adds context from respondent's estimates regarding numbers of public and research libraries.

Population Online: 69.3% (2003: 59.56%)

Estimated number of public libraries\*: 72

Average number of people served by each public library service point: 97,792

Public libraries offering Internet access: 81-100% (2003: 81-100%)

Estimated number of research libraries\*\*: 28

Research libraries offering Internet access: 81-100% (2003: 81-100%)

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: Yes, to a certain degree to protect children and prevent criminal activity (2003: Yes, to a certain degree to protect children and prevent criminal activity)

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: Yes, to a certain degree (nb. The respondent indicated that filtering software is widespread in public libraries, but not in university libraries) (2003: Yes, to a certain degree)

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: Yes, in all libraries (2003: Yes, in all libraries)

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access in the library system in the last two years: Yes

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities

## Main Indicators

Country Name: Hong Kong (SAR of China)

Population: 7,041,000

Main Language: Chinese (Cantonese), English; both are official

Literacy: 93.5% (2002)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition







## Iceland

### **Responding institution: Information - The Icelandic Library and Information Science Association**

Iceland responded to the World Report in 2001 and 2003. This year's response is referring to around 100 public libraries and about 200 research libraries, including school libraries. Based purely on the Icelandic questionnaire response it would seem that intellectual freedom is currently in a good state in the country. Little additional information is included in the response and no violations of intellectual freedom are reported. No anti-terror legislation has been passed that might negatively impact on library users.

Despite some interesting discrepancies in the number of Internet users in Iceland (see below), nearly 70% of the population have access to the Internet. Public and research libraries are offering access at between 81 and 100% of their service points and the state has made funding available in the last two years to

support this. Regarding filtering, the library association's position has remained the same - in favour to a certain degree - although this year's response adds 'Safeguarding Public Morality' to the motivating factors. Consequently it could be speculated that the viewing of pornographic materials in libraries might have become more common but, regardless of suppositions, use of filtering software remains the same as in 2003 - widespread to a certain degree.

Regarding areas of special focus, Iceland's libraries have not been involved in promoting HIV/AIDS awareness or women's access to information in any way.

There is a code of ethics for Icelandic librarians which was revised in 2001. The Internet Manifesto and the Glasgow Declaration have both been adopted, but there is no information on how they are implemented.

### User privacy and anti-terror legislation

No anti-terror legislation has been passed in Iceland that would adversely affect the intellectual freedom of library users. The respondent did indicate that keeping user records harmed individuals' freedom of expression.

### Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years

There have been no reported violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years.

### HIV/AIDS awareness

Libraries in Iceland have not been involved in any programmes promoting HIV/AIDS awareness.

### Women and freedom of access to information

Likewise, libraries have not been involved in initiatives designed to promote women's literacy or access to information.

### IFLA Internet Manifesto

The Internet Manifesto has been adopted, but there is no indication on how it has been implemented.

### IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom

The Glasgow Declaration has also been implemented, but again, there is no indication on its implementation.

### Ethics

Librarians in Iceland adopted a code of ethics in 1995, and it was revised in 2001. There is no indication in the response regarding its implementation in librarians' daily work.

#### Main Indicators

Country Name:	Iceland
Population:	295,000
Main Language:	Icelandic, English, Nordic languages, German widely spoken
Literacy:	99.9 % (1997)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition



### Libraries and Internet Access

The following section compares data and answers from 2005 with the 2003 and (where possible) 2001 IFLA/FAIFE World Reports and adds context from respondent's estimates regarding numbers of public and research libraries.

Population Online:	66.1% (Population Online 2003: 79.46% (this figure, reported by the CIA Factbook in 2003 <sup>1</sup> , makes interesting reading compared to its 2005 counterpart. If it is to be believed, Iceland has lost 30,000 Internet users in the past two years. Whether this is true or not is open to question but it does highlight how, at present, there is a number of different methodologies in use to calculate Internet user numbers); 2001: 52.11%)
Estimated number of public libraries*:	c.100
Average number of people served by each public library service point:	c.2950
Public libraries offering Internet access:	81-100% (2003: 81-100%)
Estimated number of research libraries**:	c.200, including school libraries
Research libraries offering Internet access:	81-100% (2003: 81-100%)
Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals:	Yes, to a certain degree in order to protect children and safeguard public morality (2003: Yes, to a certain degree in order to protect children)
Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries:	Yes, to a certain degree (2003: Yes, to a certain degree)
Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers:	Yes, in all libraries (2003: Yes, in research libraries only)
Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access in the library system in the last two years:	Yes

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities

**Note 1** <http://www.etcnewmedia.com/review/default.asp?SectionID=11&CountryID=63> and

[http://www.clickz.com/stats/sectors/broadband/article.php/10099\\_2211141](http://www.clickz.com/stats/sectors/broadband/article.php/10099_2211141)



### **Responding institution: Information and Library Network Centre (INFLIBNET)**

India is responding to the World Report for the third time following contributions in 2001 and 2003. This year's response refers to the estimated 30,000 public library service points in the country, and the estimated 25,000 research libraries. The contribution this year did not mention any specific reports of violations of intellectual freedom in the country, but the additional information gained from third party sources does reveal the potential for future problems, particularly in regard to accessing information on the Internet.

While there are now nearly 40 million Internet users in India the vast population size means that this corresponds to approximately 3.6% of the population. Nevertheless, the number of Internet users is growing fast - in 2003 there were only about 7 million users. Regarding libraries, 21-40% of public libraries are providing Internet access (the same as in 2003)

and 61-80% of research libraries. This last figure is down from 2003 when the same respondent stated that 81-100% of research libraries offered Internet access. The other change from 2003 is that it appears access in public libraries is now charged for, a move away from free access which does not bode well for the worse off sections of society. The state is continuing to provide extra funds for library Internet access however, and it might be that this will eventually translate back into free of charge access.

When it comes to the areas of special focus, it would appear that the Indian library community is at present unaffected by any anti-terror legislation, although it is possible this might change in the future. Libraries in India have got involved in AIDS awareness issues to quite a degree, providing information in the form of leaflets and posters, and arranging workshops and programmes that bring in all members of the community including those unable to read. They have also part of a network that helps promote women's literacy.

The Indian library community has not adopted the Internet Manifesto or the Glasgow Declaration, although it does intend to adopt the Manifesto in the next two years. The association has not yet adopted a code of ethics.

### **User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

The Indian response stated that no legislation had been passed that was likely to affect users intellectual freedom at the time of writing, but that if any was passed in future it would be likely to impact on user privacy. The respondent did not, however, believe the keeping of user records to affect library users in a negative way.

### **Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

The respondent did not indicate any violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years, but additional sources did reveal a number of items of note. In September 2004 Reporters Sans Frontiers condemned the new regulations in the State of Karnataka and in the Maharashtra State which force Internet cafes to provide police with a register of the names and addresses of the users. According to RSF the rules go against “democratic standards for the protection of personal freedoms” and the fights against cyber crime should not interfere with citizens’ rights to freedom to information and protection of privacy.

In the 2004 review of the International Press Institution, corruption is named as one of the main causes for attacks on journalists, researchers and

newspaper editors, and it gives rise to the problem of self-censorship. During the general elections in 2004, parties supported by the country’s Election Commission proposed a new law gagging the media from publishing opinion polls and exit polls. Although the proposal failed to win support, it has been a cause of concern, as fundamental rights to freedom of expression would have been threatened. In 2003 RSF described the status of the Indian media as “intolerant toward journalists who investigate sensitive subjects such as corruption or the situation in Kashmir”. Violence against journalists has continued, as can be seen in the number of attacks reported by IFEX since 2003.

In August 2003 the daily English language newspaper “Times of India” reported the “first serious attempt to monitor the Internet” in India, as the government released an official procedure for blocking websites. Prior to this, on 7th June 2003, the Department of Information Technology issued an order enabling selected bureaucrats to block websites that users are not allowed to access, creating barriers to free access to information on the Internet and the individual’s right to know. The order No. GSR529(E) permits the blocking out “websites promoting hate content, slander or defamation of others, promoting gambling, promoting racism, violence and terrorism and other such material, in addition to promoting pornography, including child pornography and violent sex”. According to the order various agencies, state departments and judicial authorities among others can issue a complaint, which will be examined later by a committee to decide whether the website is to be blocked or not. The human rights organisation Privacy International criticised the order because none of the producers of the website would be involved in the official proceedings, and also as the

order also denies that blocking of websites is censorship: "Blocking of such websites may be equated to balanced flow of information and not censorship". On top of this, other critics pointed out that much can be accommodated under this order, and concerns arise as it enables the state to sweep Internet content, possibly leading to other opportunities to monitoring and censoring the Internet.

#### Sources:

IFEX Regional News India, September 2004:  
[www.ifex.org/es/content/view/full/61614](http://www.ifex.org/es/content/view/full/61614)  
 Indian Times News Network, August 2003:  
<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/cms.dll/html/uncomp/articleshow?msid=105813>  
 Privacy International, September 2003:  
[www.privacyinternational.org/article.shtml?cmd%5B347%5D=x-347-103767](http://www.privacyinternational.org/article.shtml?cmd%5B347%5D=x-347-103767)  
 Reporters Sans Frontiers, India - 2003 Annual Report:  
[www.rsfs.org/article.php3?id\\_article=6468](http://www.rsfs.org/article.php3?id_article=6468)  
 World Press Freedom Report, IPI (International Press Institute) 2004:  
[www.freemedia.at/wpfr/Asia/india.htm](http://www.freemedia.at/wpfr/Asia/india.htm)

### HIV/AIDS awareness

Libraries in India have been involved in efforts to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS by displaying government publications and posters, and by arranging workshops and awareness programmes for users. The

same awareness programmes are used to target members of the community unable to read and provide them with information.

### Women and freedom of access to information

Indian libraries are part of the Total Literacy network which helps with programmes that specifically focus on women's literacy. This is the main focus of activities geared towards women's access to information at present.

### IFLA Internet Manifesto

While the Indian Library Association has not adopted the Internet Manifesto, it does intend to do so in the next two years.

### IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom

The Glasgow Declaration has not been adopted in India, and it is not intended to adopt it in the next two years.

### Ethics

The Indian Library Association has not adopted a code of ethics, but it does intend to do so in the next two years.

Libraries and Internet Access

The following section compares data and answers from 2005 with the 2003 and (where possible) 2001 IFLA/FAIFE World Reports and adds context from respondent's estimates regarding numbers of public and research libraries.

Population Online:	3.6% (2003: 0.67%; 2001: 0.45%)
Estimated number of public libraries*:	30,000
Average number of people served by each public library service point:	36,779
Public libraries offering Internet access:	21-40% (2003: 21-40%)
Estimated number of research libraries**:	25,000
Research libraries offering Internet access:	61-80% (2003: 81-100%)
Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals:	No (2003: Yes, to a certain degree (no motivation listed))
Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries:	No (2003: No)
Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers:	No (2003: Yes, in research libraries)
Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access in the library system in the last two years:	Yes
Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats * Public library service points, including branch libraries	
** Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities	

Main Indicators

Country Name:	India
Population:	1,103,371,000
Main Language:	Hindi, English, 14 other official languages
Literacy:	59.5% (2003)
Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition	







### **Responding institution: Library Association of Ireland**

Ireland responded to the World Report in 2003 and 2005. This year's response gives few indications that intellectual freedom in the country is in danger - there is no mention of any anti-terror legislation that affects libraries and no incidents that affect freedom of expression. The information in the response refers to 340 public libraries and 75 research libraries.

Nearly half the population of Ireland now have access to the Internet, up from a third in 2003. Both public and research libraries are offering Internet access at 81-100% of their service points and the state continues to provide extra funds to keep these levels of access steady. The 2005 response leaves some questions open however, as it does not comment on the library association's position on filtering. It also states that Internet access is not free in public or research libraries, although it should be mentioned here that the response was the same in 2003 but with the added

note that a minority of public libraries do charge for access. It is tempting to suggest the situation remains the same.

Regarding other areas of special focus, libraries in Ireland have been involved in efforts to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS through community health campaigns, and it appears that efforts have been made to promote women's access to information.

The Internet Manifesto is intended to be adopted in the next two years, as is the Glasgow Declaration. A code of ethics has not been adopted at this point in time, but the library association intends to adopt one in the next two years.

### **User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

No anti-terror legislation has been passed in Ireland that would adversely affect the intellectual freedom of library users. However, the respondent did indicate that future legislation would likely impact on user



privacy, and also thought that keeping user records harmed individuals’ freedom of expression.

**Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

There have been no violations of intellectual freedom reported in the past two years.

**HIV/AIDS awareness**

Libraries in Ireland have been involved in raising HIV/AIDS awareness through community health information campaigns.

**Women and freedom of access to information**

While libraries have not been involved in any specific programmes to promote women’s literacy, the respondent did indicate that there have been efforts to promote women’s access to information on health, education and family planning. No further details elaborated on these programmes however.

**IFLA Internet Manifesto**

While the respondent did not tick the box indicating whether or not the Manifesto has been adopted, the box indicating that it would be adopted in the next two years was ticked. It is therefore thought that Ireland has not adopted the Manifesto and will make efforts to do so in the near future.

**IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom**

The Glasgow Declaration has not been adopted, but it is intended to adopt it in the next two years.

**Ethics**

Librarians in Ireland do not currently have a code of ethics, but it is thought that one will be adopted in the next two years.

**Main Indicators**

Country Name:	Ireland
Population:	4,148,000
Main Language:	English is the language generally used, Irish (Gaelic or Gaeilge) spoken mainly in areas located along the western seaboard
Literacy:	98% (1981)
Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition	



### Libraries and Internet Access

The following section compares data and answers from 2005 with the 2003 IFLA/FAIFE World Report and adds context from respondent's estimates regarding numbers of public and research libraries.

Population Online: 49.7% (2003: 33.74%)

Estimated number of public libraries\*: 340

Average number of people served by each public library service point: 12,200

Public libraries offering Internet access: 81-100% (2003: 81-100%)

Estimated number of research libraries\*\*: 75

Research libraries offering Internet access: 81-100% (2003: 81-100%)

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: N/A (2003: No)

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: Yes, to a certain degree in order to protect children from harmful content (2003: Yes, to a certain degree in order to protect children from harmful content)

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: No (2003: No. A minority of public libraries charge for Internet access)

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access in the library system in the last two years: Yes

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities



## Israel

### **Responding institution: Libraries Division, Ministry of Education and Culture**

Israel contributed to the World Report series in 2001, but not in 2003. This is therefore the first investigation to be carried out using the new data collection process. This report is referring to the country's estimated 1176 public library service points, and approximately 250 research libraries. The overall freedom of access to information situation appears, on the basis of the response, to be untroubled - there were no violations of intellectual freedom reported in the past two years.

Almost half of Israel's population now has access to the Internet, nearly three times as many as at the time of the 2001 Report. 41-60% of both public and research libraries can offer access to the Internet, free of charge. This access stands a chance of being filtered despite the library association's opposition to the use of filtering software. Such a situation has come about

due to concerns regarding what children are looking at online, as well as worries about preserving religious values and protecting public morality. The Israeli state has made extra funding available for library Internet access since 2003 which has resulted in Internet facilities being installed in over 400 public libraries. At the same time, librarians have been trained to use the Internet.

Israel's responses regarding the effects of anti-terror legislation and HIV/AIDS awareness were brief, and show that libraries are not greatly concerned with these issues at this time. There have been efforts made to promote women's literacy however, with a concentration on new mothers and children's literature promotion.

The Israeli library association has adopted a code of ethics and the Internet Manifesto, but it has not yet adopted the Glasgow Declaration. It intends to do so within two years.

### **User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

The response indicated that there was currently no anti-terror legislation in existence that impacted on library users. The keeping of user records was not felt to affect the freedom of expression of library users.

### **Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

There were no reported violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years.

### **HIV/AIDS awareness**

Libraries in Israel have not been involved in any programs to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS, nor have they been involved in efforts to provide related information to those unable to read.

### **Women and freedom of access to information**

While there are no reported efforts to increase women's access to information on education, health or family planning, Israel's libraries have undertaken measures to promote women's literacy. Children's literature is promoted through meetings with single

mothers which empowers the women involved and gives them access to better education. In the groups the mothers are also taught about the importance of reading to children as they grow up. The respondent stated that there are currently three programmes operating throughout the entire year.

### **IFLA Internet Manifesto**

Israel has adopted the Internet Manifesto. Through the use of extra funding authorities were able to install Internet services in about 400 public libraries while at the same time making access available to 8 databases. As part of the project public librarians were also trained to use the resources and services.

### **IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom**

The Glasgow Declaration has not yet been adopted, but it is hoped that it will be in the next two years.

### **Ethics**

The library association adopted a code of ethics in 1996. Posters were printed up with the code and they are displayed in public libraries.

## Libraries and Internet Access

Israel contributed to the 2001 World Report but not to the 2003 edition. It has not been possible to compare answers therefore, and the data below is collected from the 2005 data collection process only, with the exception of the population online figure which is carried over from the 2001 report.

Population Online: 45.2% (2001: 17.1%)

Estimated number of public libraries\*: 1176

Average number of people served by each public library service point: 5719

Public libraries offering Internet access: 41-60%

Estimated number of research libraries\*\*: Around 250, including universities, colleges, private and government sector

Research libraries offering Internet access: 41-60%

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: No

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: Yes, to a certain degree. This is motivated by a need to protect children from harmful materials, to safeguard religious values and to safeguard public morality

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: Yes, in all libraries

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access in the library system in the last two years: Yes

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities

## Main Indicators

Country Name: Israel

Population: 6,725,000 (nb: this includes about 187,000 Israeli settlers in the West Bank, about 20,000 in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, more than 5,000 in the Gaza Strip, and fewer than 177,000 in East Jerusalem (July 2005 est.)

Main Language: Hebrew (official), Arabic used officially for Arab minority, English most commonly used foreign language

Literacy: 95.4% (2003)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition





### **Responding institution: Italian Library Association (AIB)**

Italy responded to the World Report in 2001 and 2003. This year's response refers to an estimated 6700 public library service points and 2200 research libraries. As far as libraries are concerned, the intellectual freedom situation in Italy is dominated by the current appeal case regarding a librarian who lent a book to a minor. The Judge is to decide whether the book is or is not obscene and if the librarian is therefore guilty of distributing an obscene written document. The book has been recommended by a governmental ministry as a resource for a campaign on the important issue of teenage drug use. This situation, detailed further below, has caused great concern to Italian library authorities and to librarians around the world.

Internet penetration has increased in Italy from 33.35% in the 2003 World Report to 49.2% in 2005. During this time it would appear that the extra money the Italian authorities invested 2001-3 (see

2003 World Report) has been used to greatly increase Internet access in libraries. 81-100% of both public and research libraries now offer Internet access free of charge, up from 41-60% and 61-80% respectively. In 2003 filtering did not appear to be an issue for the library association or on library terminals but two years later, perhaps as a consequence of increased access, the association is now to a degree in favour of using filtering software in order to protect children. Use of the software is correspondingly widespread to a degree in libraries.

Regarding areas of special focus, anti-terror legislation has not been passed in Italy that adversely affects library users, although it might be that future legislation will impact on user privacy. Libraries have promoted HIV/AIDS awareness, but at present they are not involved in any programmes to promote women's access to information.

The Italian library association has adopted a code of ethics, as well as the Internet Manifesto and Glasgow

Declaration both of which have been incorporated into a national protocol of library standards.

### **User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

No anti-terror legislation has been passed that would adversely affect the intellectual freedom of library users. However, the respondent did indicate that future legislation would likely impact on user privacy in Italy's libraries, and also thought that keeping user records harmed individuals freedom of expression.

### **Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

With regards to the general situation of intellectual freedom in Italy, the respondent confirms the evaluation as described in the World Report for 2001: there is no apparent evidence of censorship or freedom of expression violations in the country but a range of problems exist such as the effects of media concentration not efficiently controlled by existing antitrust rules; the low concentration of libraries in some regions; minority groups' access to information; and public access to the Internet in public libraries. This year, an isolated case that is currently being tried at the Court of Pavullo (Modena) has been reported. The case involves incrimination of a librarian who lent the book "Scopami" by Virginie Despentes (published by Einaudi) to a girl of 15. The judge is to decide whether the book is obscene or not, and if the librarian is therefore guilty under art. 528 of distributing an obscene written document. The book in question has not only been published by a reputable publish-

er but also recommended by a governmental ministry as a resource for a campaign on the important issue of teenage drug use. Making it available responded to a social need. The next sitting of the Court will take place on the 17th of June 2005. One of the witnesses for the defence is Mr Igino Poggiali, member of the IFLA FAIFE Committee. The Italian Library Association is assisting the defence and has been lobbying and taking actions against the possibility of persecution of librarians, and for the application of the principles of Italian professional code of ethics. FAIFE has been working with the defence as well, and on the 10th of June 2005 a media release was issued.

Source:

IFLA/FAIFE Media Release, 10th June, 2005:  
[www.ifla.org/V/press/pr10-06-2005.htm](http://www.ifla.org/V/press/pr10-06-2005.htm)

### **HIV/AIDS awareness**

Libraries in Italy have been involved in promoting HIV/AIDS awareness, and make available materials on the subject produced by the National Health Service. Some public and academic libraries also have facilities, products and projects in favour of young and adult blind members of the community.

### **Women and freedom of access to information**

Italian libraries have not been involved in initiatives designed to promote women's literacy or access to information.

### **IFLA Internet Manifesto**

The IFLA Internet Manifesto has been adopted. Italian public libraries managed by local authorities (municipal, provincial and regional) adopted a national protocol of standards based on IFLA and UNESCO manifestos, including the IFLA Internet Manifesto. In general the access to facilities is free of charge or based on an annual fee of 5/10 Euros. The users are normally advised that criminal uses of the utilities (terrorism, child pornography, violations of copyright etc.) could be prosecuted by the police.

### IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom

The Glasgow Declaration has been adopted by the Italian library association and incorporated into standards in the same way as the Internet Manifesto.

### Ethics

The Italian library association adopted a code of ethics in 1998. Many libraries declare the adoption of the code on their website, or in other information materials.

#### Main Indicators

Country Name:	Italy
Population:	58,093,000
Main Language:	Italian, German, French, Slovene
Literacy:	98.6% (2003)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition





### Libraries and Internet Access

The following section compares data and answers from 2005 with the 2003 and (where possible) 2001 IFLA/FAIFE World Reports and adds context from respondent's estimates regarding numbers of public and research libraries.

Population Online: 49.2% (2003: 33.35%; 2001: 23.29%)

Estimated number of public libraries\*: 6700

Average number of people served by each public library service point: 8671

Public libraries offering Internet access: 81-100% (2003: 41-60%)

Estimated number of research libraries\*\*: 2200

Research libraries offering Internet access: 81-100% (2003: 61-100%)

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: Yes, to a certain degree motivated by a need to protect children (2003: No)

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: Yes, to a certain degree (2003: No)

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: Yes, in all libraries (2003: yes, in all libraries)

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access in the library system in the last two years: No

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\* \* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities



### Responding institution: National Library of Jamaica

Jamaica contributed to the World Report in 2001 but not in 2003. The questionnaire response relates to the 656 public library service points, including 511 bookmobile stops, 4 research libraries, 925 school libraries, 4 Community College Libraries, and 7 Teacher's College Libraries in the country.

Regarding the intellectual freedom situation in the country, no anti-terror legislation that would adversely affect library users has been passed in Jamaica and no violations of freedom of access to information have been reported. In 2001 it was reported that a Freedom of Information Act inspired primarily by similar legislation in Australia and Belize was under development. The aim of the law was to ensure public access to central and local governmental information resources and it was passed in 2002. Also, the general state of freedom of access to information and freedom of expression in the country was defined as 'respect-

able'. The responses in 2005 indicate continuing stability.

Overall Internet penetration has increased significantly in Jamaica since the time of their last contribution to the World Report series in 2001. Regarding libraries, a significant proportion of Jamaica's public library service points are served by bookmobiles which are unable to provide Internet access to users. However, the fixed service points in public library buildings are offering very good levels of Internet access to Jamaica's library users - 81-100% of service points are online. 81-100% of research libraries are also offering Internet access which, compared to the other respondents in this survey, makes Jamaica's libraries the most connected in the Caribbean. This situation has come about despite no extra funds being made available by the state in the last two years. Perhaps because of this, research library users are able to go online for free while public library users have to pay to use the net. Regarding filtering of this access, the respondent indicated that the Jamaican Library

Association is yet to take a position on the use of filtering software.

Regarding other focus areas, libraries in Jamaica are involved in programmes that raise awareness of HIV/AIDS but are not involved in programmes focusing on the promotion of women's literacy.

The library association has adopted a code of ethics and intends to adopt the IFLA Internet Manifesto and the Glasgow Declaration in the next two years.

### **User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

No anti-terror legislation that would adversely affect library users' intellectual freedom has been passed in Jamaica. The respondent does not offer any opinion as to whether or not such legislation, if passed, would impact on user privacy, or if the keeping of user records affects the freedom of expression of the individual library Internet user.

### **Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

No incidents that adversely affect freedom of access to information and freedom of expression have occurred in Jamaica in the last two years, and no information resources that might further explain the situation facing freedom of access to information have been listed.

### **HIV/AIDS awareness**

Libraries in Jamaica are involved in activities such as information exhibitions to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS. They are not, at present, providing information on the subject to members of the community unable to read.

### **Women and freedom of access to information**

Libraries do not have special programmes focusing on the promotion of women's literacy, and do not specifically promote women's access to information on issues such as health or family planning.

### **IFLA Internet Manifesto**

The IFLA Internet Manifesto has not been adopted but the library association intends to adopt it in the next two years.

### **IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom**

The Glasgow Declaration has not been adopted either, but again there are intentions are to adopt it in the next two years.

### **Ethics**

The library association adopted a code of ethics in 2001. No information on how the code has been implemented in the daily work of libraries has been provided.

### Libraries and Internet Access

Jamaica contributed to the World Report in 2001 but not in 2003 when new data collection procedures were introduced. Consequently, only online population figures can be compared.

Population Online: 22.6% (2001: 2.26%)

Estimated number of public libraries\*: 656 (including 511 bookmobile stops)

Average number of people served by each public library service point: 4041

Public libraries offering Internet access: 81-100%

Estimated number of research libraries\*\*: 940 (3 university libraries; 1 national library; 925 school libraries (primary to high); 4 community college libraries; 7 teachers college libraries)

Research libraries offering Internet access: 81-100%

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: The Jamaican Library Association has not taken any position on the issue

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: N/A

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: Yes, in research libraries only

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access in the library system in the last two years: No

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities

### Main Indicators

Country Name: Jamaica

Population: 2,651,000

Main Language: English, patois English

Literacy: 87.9% (2003)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition





### Responding institution: The Japan Library Association

Japan is contributing to the World Report series for the third time following contributions in 2001 and 2003. The response covers the country's estimated 2800 public library service points and 1280 research libraries. From an overall perspective, there are no current problems reported regarding violations of intellectual freedom but the information dealing with anti-terror legislation suggests that there is a chance that library users may be affected by the fallout from the current security situation in the future. It may be that this fallout will be detailed in the forthcoming Japanese Library Annual published in July 2005.

The number of Internet users in Japan continues to rise and Internet penetration is now 52.8%. It would appear, however, that few people are using the public library as a place to go online - less than 20% of public libraries are able to provide Internet access, the same situation as in 2003. Competition from Internet

cafes and home Internet access might be one reason for this situation, and a population used to having Internet access in these places might be less inclined to use the public library - hence no change in the levels of library provision in the last two years. Other changes since 2003 include a firmer position on filtering from the library association. It is now definitely in favour of filtering, citing the need to protect children as its motivation for this stance. Interestingly, in 2003 it was reported that filtering software was widespread in Japanese libraries (see below) but it now only appears to be widespread to a degree. Finally, it would appear that access is now only free in research libraries whereas in 2003 it was indicated as being free in all libraries. Public library Internet access in Japan seems to be scarce, and charged for.

The Japanese library community is not concentrating on the remaining two special areas of focus at the time of writing. There are no programmes in libraries relating to HIV/AIDS awareness or women's literacy.

The Japanese library association has adopted a code of ethics, the Internet Manifesto and the Glasgow Declaration, and does its best to implement the ideals of these documents through everyday library work.

### **User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

The response points out that there exists the possibility of some negative effects from an emergency security act, but at the time of writing there is no influence on libraries. Should such legislation be implemented the respondent suggests there will be a big discussion in the country. It would be mean the violation of the Statement on Intellectual Freedom in Libraries (Article 3). This article guarantees the privacy of library users and if this happens then libraries and librarians would take action. As the respondent puts it, this is because “when the freedom of libraries is imperilled, we librarians will work together and devote ourselves to secure the freedom”. The Japanese library association believes that the keeping of user records can affect the freedom of expression of library users.

### **Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

There are no reported violations of intellectual freedom, but this issue will be covered in more detail in the forthcoming ‘Library Annual’ to be published in July 2005. There will be a chapter in the annual concerning intellectual freedom in libraries.

### **HIV/AIDS awareness**

Japanese libraries have not been involved in any programmes relating to HIV/AIDS awareness.

### **Women and freedom of access to information**

There are no reports of any programmes promoting women’s literacy or women’s access to information.

### **IFLA Internet Manifesto**

The Internet Manifesto has been adopted. In terms of implementation, librarians have tried to increase the number of computer terminals available to users. There have also been attempts to support free Internet use in every library but there still exist hurdles to do this.

### **IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom**

The Glasgow Declaration has also been adopted. It is described in the revised edition of the book “Statement on Intellectual Freedom in Libraries” and Japanese librarians attempt to implement the Declaration at all times.

### **Ethics**

The Japanese library association adopted a code of ethics in 1980. It has been implemented by making the best possible efforts to serve users’ needs.

## Libraries and Internet Access

The following section compares data and answers from 2005 with the 2003 and (where possible) 2001 IFLA/FAIFE World Reports and adds context from respondent's estimates regarding numbers of public and research libraries.

Population Online: 52.8% (2003: 44.1%; 2001: 30.53%)

Estimated number of public libraries\*: 2800

Average number of people served by each public library service point: 45,745

Public libraries offering Internet access: Less than 20% (2003: Less than 20%)

Estimated number of research libraries\*\*: 1280 (only academic libraries)

Research libraries offering Internet access: 81-100% (2003: 81-100%)

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: Yes, in order to protect children (2003: Yes, to a certain degree in order to protect children from harmful materials)

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: Yes, to a certain degree (2003: Yes (nb. a misprint in the 2003 reported this as 'no'))

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: Yes, in all libraries (2003: Yes, in research libraries only)

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access in the library system in the last two years: Yes

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities

## Main Indicators

Country Name: Japan

Population: 128,085,000

Main Language: Japanese

Literacy: 99% (2002)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition





### **Responding institution: National Academic Library of the Republic of Kazakhstan**

This is Kazakhstan's first contribution to the World Report and it relates to an estimated 11,000 public library service points and 200 research libraries in the country. There were no mentions of intellectual freedom violations in the response, but third party sources describe a worrying situation relating to governmental control of the media. Whether this situation - a proposed media law - would directly impact upon libraries is difficult to say at this point, but the law would weaken the powers of the media, especially independent journalists. The free flow of ideas and information would undoubtedly be affected if the bill became law and as such the library community has cause to monitor the situation.

Kazakhstan's country report suggests an extensive public library service that can provide access to the Internet at 61-80% of its service points. 81-100% of research libraries are also indicated to offer access

to the Internet, giving the impression that library Internet users are well served in the country. This situation is in opposition to the current Internet penetration figures for the country, which suggest that under 2% of the population is able to go online. The CIA Factbook also suggests that telecommunications infrastructure in the country is antiquated. Other interesting findings from the response are that while the library association is definitely in favour of filtering Internet access it appears that the use of filtering software is not widespread. This might be an issue of cost - extra government funding has not been forthcoming in the past two years and Internet access is charged for in both public and research libraries.

Regarding the special areas of focus, the Kazakhstan response stated that there was currently no anti-terror legislation in place that affected library users in a negative way. Libraries have made efforts to provide HIV/AIDS information to their users, and to members of the community unable to read in particular.



They have also set up programmes to promote women's literacy and access to information.

While the library community has adopted a code of ethics it is yet to adopt the Internet Manifesto or Glasgow Declaration. It intends to adopt both policies in the next two years.

### **User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

There is no anti-terror legislation in the country that currently impacts upon libraries. The respondent indicated that the keeping of library user records would affect library users' freedom of expression.

### **Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

While the questionnaire response did not list any violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years, in February 2004 IFEX members raised alarm over a draft media law that would give the government greater powers to control the independent media. Article 19, CPJ (Committee to Protect Journalists), RSF (Reporters Without Borders) and WAN (World Association of Newspapers) expressed concern over the proposed bill "On Mass Media in the Republic of Kazakhstan". The CPJ argued that the vague language of the bill weakens the legal protection of the media, giving authorities more power to censor, ban and imprison journalists if they violate the bill. It has the potential to force independent broadcasters to publicise government statements, and threaten closure for non-compliance.

Source:

IFEX Communiqué, Vol 13, Issue 05, 3 February 2004:  
<http://www.ifex.org/fr/content/view/full/56585/>

Further information on the situation in Kazakhstan can be found here:

<http://www.adilsoz.kz/?id=207&lan=english>

### **HIV/AIDS awareness**

Libraries in Kazakhstan have promoted HIV/AIDS awareness by exhibiting relevant books, reviewing books and by holding lectures in collaboration with special professional medical centres. Lectures have been undertaken to provide information to those in the community unable to read.

### **Women and freedom of access to information**

Libraries have promoted women's literacy by collaborating with women's organisations, and by holding training sessions, discussions and lectures. Regarding the provision of health, education or economic information, there is a special women's university within the library information faculty, and a special library collection and museum devoted to women's leaders.

### **IFLA Internet Manifesto**

The Internet Manifesto has not been adopted but it is hoped to be in the next two years.

### **IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom**

Likewise, the Glasgow Declaration is yet to be adopted, but it is planned that it will be within two years.

## Ethics

The library association adopted a code of ethics in

1998. It has been promoted through lectures, brochures, posters and publication on websites.

## Libraries and Internet Access

This is Kazakhstan's first contribution to the World Report.

Population Online: 1.7%

Estimated number of public libraries\*: 11,000

Average number of people served by each public library service point: 1348

Public libraries offering Internet access: 61-80%

Estimated number of research libraries\*\*: 200

Research libraries offering Internet access: 81-100%

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: Yes. Motivated by the need to protect children, protect national security, prevent crime and safeguard public morality

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: No

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: No

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access in the library system in the last two years: No

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities

## Main Indicators

Country Name: Kazakhstan

Population: 14,825,000

Main Language: Kazakh (Qazaq, state language) 64.4%, Russian (official, used in everyday business, designated the "language of interethnic communication") 95% (2001 est.)

Literacy: 98.4% (1999)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition





### **Responding institution: Kenyan Library Association**

This is the third time Kenya has contributed to the World Report. The answers in the questionnaire refer to the 40 public library public service points in the country, and the 25 research libraries.

Anti-terror legislation has not been passed in Kenya but attempts to pass a bill have raised a lot of political debate in the country. The Kenyan Library Association does not think that such legislation would negatively impact on user privacy. Amnesty International however reports that the Attorney General has stated the anti-terror bill will be re-drafted taking into consideration comments received from the national and international human rights community.

In 2001 a worrying picture of freedom of access to information was painted in terms of government control of acquisitions, censorship, and self-censorship, and the library association recognised that the issue

of censorship would have to be addressed. However, neither in 2003 nor this year have any incidents or violations of intellectual freedom been reported.

Internet penetration appears to have fallen slightly since the last World Report - dropping from 1.61% to 1.2%. It is unclear how far differences in methodology contribute to this, but it must be noted that the 2005 respondent indicates that less public libraries are providing access to the Internet than in 2003. Research libraries, on the other hand, have increased access and now 81-100% of research libraries are providing the Internet. Access in all libraries is free, another change from 2003 when it cost to go online at a library, even if there is a chance it might be filtered - the Kenyan Library Association is in favour of filtering to a certain degree in order to protect children and safeguard public morality.

Regarding areas of special focus, Kenya's libraries are involved in programmes that raise awareness of HIV/AIDS and these programmes have been extended to

members of the community unable to read. Libraries are not, however, involved in the promotion of women's literacy.

Compared to the situation in 2003 where uncertainty existed as to whether or not the library association had adopted the Internet Manifesto, the Glasgow Declaration, or a code of ethics, the message this year is clear. The library association intends to adopt all three initiatives in the next two years.

### **User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

Anti-terror legislation that would adversely affect library users' intellectual freedom has not been passed in Kenya. There have been a lot of political discussions on the issue however, and an attempt has been made to pass a bill in Parliament. The situation is still unsolved and libraries have not been affected. The Kenyan Library Association does not think that such legislation would negatively impact on user privacy as user privacy has never been really a problem in Kenya. Neither does the association think that the keeping of user records is considered to affect the freedom of expression of the individual library Internet user.

### **Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

In the World Report of 2001, censorship and government control of library acquisitions were reported and the library association recognised that it had not fully addressed the issue of censorship in society. However, as was the case in 2003, no incidents that adversely affect freedom of access to

information and freedom of expression have occurred in Kenya in the last two years. However, according to international organisations such as IFEX and Amnesty International, freedom of access to information and freedom of expression is under pressure in the country.

#### **Sources:**

Amnesty International Report 2005:

<http://web.amnesty.org/report2005/ken-summary-eng>

IFEX - Kenya

<http://www.ifex.org/en/content/view/full/39/>

### **HIV/AIDS awareness**

Libraries are involved in programmes that raise awareness of HIV/AIDS. Some libraries have established a HIV/AIDS corner to disseminate information on the topic, and public libraries participate in open forums on HIV/AIDS. Libraries have also made efforts to provide information on the subject to members of the community unable to read. Some community libraries held 'barasas' (open forums) to inform their community. These activities are on a limited scale though and no overall strategy has been adopted for HIV/AIDS forums.

### **Women and freedom of access to information**

Libraries do not have special programmes focusing on the promotion of women's literacy, and neither do they specifically promote women's access to information on social issues, the economy, education, health, or family planning.

IFLA Internet Manifesto

In the 2003 World Report, there existed some uncertainty as to whether or not the Manifesto had been adopted. This year’s response makes clear that the Kenyan Library Association has not adopted the Internet Manifesto but they intend to do so in the next two years.

IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom

Similar uncertainty about the adoption of the Glasgow Declaration has now been solved. The Kenyan

Library Association has not adopted the Declaration but intends to do so in the next two years.

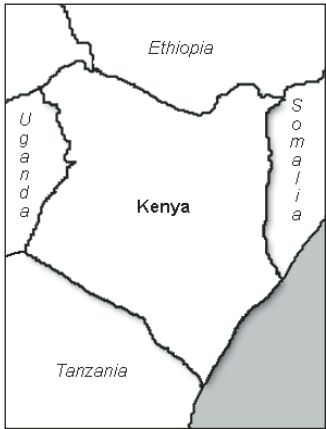
Ethics

In the 2003 report, Kenya reported that the library association has not adopted a code of ethics. This was not entirely correct according to the response this year. The Kenyan Library Association drafted a code of ethics in 1991 but the strategic work of implementation was never put in place. The library association therefore intends to adopt a code of ethics in the next two years.

Main Indicators

Country Name:	Kenya
Population:	34,256,000
Main Language:	English (official), Kiswahili (official), numerous indigenous languages
Literacy:	85.1% (2003)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition



### Libraries and Internet Access

The following section compares data and answers from 2005 with the 2003 and (where possible) 2001 IFLA/FAIFE World Reports and adds context from respondent's estimates regarding numbers of public and research libraries.

Population Online: 1.2% (2003: 1.61%; 2001: 0.16%)

Estimated number of public libraries\*: 40

Average number of people served by each public library service point: 856,400

Public libraries offering Internet access: Less than 20% (2003: 41-60%)

Estimated number of research libraries\*\*: 25

Research libraries offering Internet access: 81-100% (2003: 61-80%)

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: Yes, to a certain degree. Motivated by a desire to protect children and safeguard public morality (2003: Yes, to a certain degree. Motivations indicated were: protection of children; protection of national security; safeguarding of national culture; safeguarding of public morality)

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: Yes, to a certain degree (2003: Yes, to a certain degree)

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: Yes, in all libraries (2003: No)

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access in the library system in the last two years: Yes

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities



### **Responding institution: National Library of Latvia/Library Association of Latvia**

Latvia is replying to the World Report for the second time and this year's report relates to the 892 public library service points and nearly 1200 research libraries, most of which are school libraries. While no anti-terror legislation has been passed in Latvia that might negatively impact on library users it does appear there has been interventions in parliament regarding the stocking of a certain book in libraries. The current situation regarding these interventions is unclear but the book in question, detailed further below, would appear to be a guide to parenting as opposed to pornographic or obscene material.

Since the last World Report in 2003 Internet penetration in Latvia has increased from 13.8% to 40.6%. The growth in user numbers is reflected in an increase in the number of public libraries offering Internet access - 61-80% of public libraries now have Internet facilities for users. Research libraries continue

to offer very high levels of access and in fact little has changed in the Latvian response for 2005. The library association continues to be against filtering software and its use in libraries is still not widespread. Users still have to pay to access the Internet in libraries and the government continues to support Internet growth in libraries by providing extra funds.

When it comes to this report's other special areas of focus, libraries in Latvia have been involved in HIV/AIDS awareness programmes but have not yet undertaken programmes that specifically promote women's literacy or access to information.

The Latvian library association has a code of ethics, and it has adopted the Internet Manifesto and the Glasgow Declaration.

### **User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

No anti-terror legislation has been passed in Latvia that would adversely affect the intellectual freedom of

library users and the respondent did not think that future legislation would impact on user privacy. The respondent also thought keeping user records did not harm individual's freedom of expression.

### **Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

Some members of parliament have tried to forbid circulation of 'Questions Children Ask: How to Answer Them' by Dr. Miriam Stoppard. Amazon.co.uk describes the book as "A comprehensive guide for parents, enabling them to answer the many difficult questions that young children ask. It covers many of the subjects that children are curious about, from sex, relationships and reproduction to religion and death." It is unclear exactly why members of parliament are attempting to ban this book, but the action is a worrying one for intellectual freedom.

### **HIV/AIDS awareness**

Libraries in Latvia have been involved in raising awareness of HIV/AIDS by providing practical information in libraries, and by holding special exhibitions on the subject. No special efforts have yet been made to reach out to members of the community unable to read regarding the subject.

### **Women and freedom of access to information**

Libraries in Latvia have not been involved in initiatives designed to promote women's literacy or access to information.

### **IFLA Internet Manifesto**

Latvia's libraries have adopted the Internet Manifesto and libraries are consequently promoting access without charge (this information stands in opposition to a previous response on the questionnaire, which states that it is not free to access the Internet in Latvian libraries).

### **IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom**

The Latvian library association has adopted the Glasgow Declaration.

### **Ethics**

The Latvian library association adopted a code of ethics in 1995, and it has been promoted through discussions, workshops and publications in the professional journal.



### Libraries and Internet Access

The following section compares data and answers from 2005 with the 2003 IFLA/FAIFE World Report and adds context from respondent's estimates regarding numbers of public and research libraries.

Population Online: 40.6% (2003: 13.18%)

Estimated number of public libraries\*: 892

Average number of people served by each public library service point: 2586

Public libraries offering Internet access: 61-80% (2003: Less than 20%)

Estimated number of research libraries\*\*: 89 plus 1100 school libraries

Research libraries offering Internet access: 81-100% (2003: 81-100%)

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: No (2003: No)

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: No (2003: No)

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: No (2003: No)

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access  
in the library system in the last two years: Yes

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities

### Main Indicators

Country Name: Latvia

Population: 2,307,000

Main Language: Latvian (official), Lithuanian, Russian, other

Literacy: 99.8% (2003)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition





### Responding institution: Lithuanian Librarians' Association

Lithuania responded to the World Report in 2001 and 2003. This year's report is covering the country's estimated 1418 public library service points and 1914 research libraries. Based purely on the questionnaire response it would seem that intellectual freedom is currently in a good state in the country. Little additional information is included in the response and no violations of intellectual freedom are reported. No anti-terror legislation has been passed that might negatively impact on library users.

Regarding the Internet in Lithuanian libraries, little has changed since the 2003 World Report. The overall Internet penetration for the country has gone up from just over 9% to just over 20% suggesting that infrastructure is developing to support demand, but levels of access in libraries appear to remain the same. Public libraries lag some way behind research libraries in terms of service points offering access but where

service can be found it is indicated that the Internet remains unhampered by filtering software (even if it is charged for). The library association has maintained its position of not favouring filtered Internet access.

Regarding areas of special focus, Lithuania's libraries have not been involved in promoting HIV/AIDS awareness or women's access to information in any way.

There is a code of ethics for Lithuanian librarians which was adopted in 1999. The Internet Manifesto and the Glasgow Declaration have both been adopted and disseminated to all libraries, as well as promoted in library journals.

### User privacy and anti-terror legislation

No anti-terror legislation has been passed in Lithuania that would adversely affect the intellectual freedom of library users. The respondent indicated that

keeping user records does not harm individuals freedom of expression.

### **Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

There have been no reported violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years.

### **HIV/AIDS awareness**

Libraries in Lithuania have not been involved in any programmes promoting HIV/AIDS awareness.

### **Women and freedom of access to information**

Likewise, libraries have not been involved in initiatives designed to promote women's literacy or access to information.

### **IFLA Internet Manifesto**

The Lithuanian library association has adopted the Internet Manifesto. It has been translated into Lithuanian and published in the library journal "In the World of Books", so libraries are free to use it.

### **IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom**

The association has also adopted the Glasgow Declaration and disseminated and promoted it in the same way as the Internet Manifesto.

### **Ethics**

The Lithuanian Librarians' Association adopted a code of ethics in 1999. All libraries have a copy of it and follow its commitments. No special cases going against the code have been observed in the past two years.

#### **Main Indicators**

Country Name:	Lithuania
Population:	3,431,000
Main Language:	Lithuanian (official), Polish, Russian
Literacy:	99.6% (2003)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition



### Libraries and Internet Access

The following section compares data and answers from 2005 with the 2003 and (where possible) 2001 IFLA/FAIFE World Reports and adds context from respondent's estimates regarding numbers of public and research libraries.

Population Online: 20.3% (2003: 9.47%; 2001: 6.2%)

Estimated number of public libraries\*: 1418

Average number of people served by each public library service point: 2420

Public libraries offering Internet access: 21-40% (2003: 21-40%)

Estimated number of research libraries\*\*: 1914

Research libraries offering Internet access: 81-100% (2003: 81-100%)

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: No (2003: No)

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: No (2003: No)

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: Yes, in research libraries only (2003: Yes, in research libraries only)

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access

in the library system in the last two years: Yes

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities



**Responding institution: National and University Library "St Kliment Ohridski" - Skopje**

This is Macedonia's second contribution to the World Report series. This year's response is referring to 66 public libraries and 150 research libraries in the country. The questionnaire response suggests that there are few problems for freedom of access to information in the country, with no anti-terror legislation being passed that affects library users and no mentions of intellectual freedom violations.

Very little has changed in terms of Internet access in Macedonia's libraries since the 2003 World Report. Overall Internet penetration rates for the country have barely increased and answers from the responding institution regarding the Internet are exactly the same as 2003 with one exception - it is now free to use the Internet in all libraries, which is a great advantage for the less well off. Otherwise it can be seen that levels of access in both public and research libraries remain very low. While the library association can see

a need for filtering Internet access in some situations, the use of filtering software is not widespread in the library system.

Regarding other special areas of focus, libraries in the country have been involved in HIV/AIDS awareness programmes through discussion sessions and workshops. Libraries have also promoted women's access to information through the same methods.

The Macedonian library association has adopted a code of ethics and it is used in librarians' daily work. Both the Internet Manifesto and the Glasgow Declaration have been adopted and implemented in libraries' activities.

**User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

There has been no anti-terror legislation passed that affects library users' intellectual freedom. The respondent indicated that keeping user records does not

affect the freedom of expression of the individual library user.

### **Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

There are no reported violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years.

### **HIV/AIDS awareness**

Libraries in Macedonia have been involved with programmes to promote HIV/AIDS awareness. Discussions and workshops in the field of prevention, protection and treatment have been held. As yet, however, the programmes are not specifically targeting members of the community unable to read.

### **Women and freedom of access to information**

While women's literacy has not been specifically targeted as an area of focus for Macedonia's libraries, the library community has made efforts to promote women's access to information. Training sessions for women have been organised by libraries, par-

ticularly in the fields of education, family planning and health.

### **IFLA Internet Manifesto**

The Internet Manifesto has been adopted by the Macedonian library community. Its values come through in the organising of Internet training for both users and librarians, and by organising Internet clubs in libraries.

### **IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom**

The Glasgow Declaration has been adopted. It has been translated into Macedonian and distributed to all public libraries in order to be implemented.

### **Ethics**

The library association in Macedonia adopted a code of ethics in 1997. As part of incorporating the code into librarians' daily work users' rights are promoted and librarians try to improve their relationship with users by satisfying their needs and requirements.

## Libraries and Internet Access

The following section compares data and answers from 2005 with the 2003 IFLA/FAIFE World Report and adds context from respondent's estimates regarding numbers of public and research libraries.

Population Online:	4.9% (2003: 4.87%)
Estimated number of public libraries*:	66
Average number of people served by each public library service point:	30,818
Public libraries offering Internet access:	Less than 20% (2003: Less than 20%)
Estimated number of research libraries**:	150
Research libraries offering Internet access:	21-40% (2003: 21-40%)
Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals:	Yes, to a certain degree (motivation not indicated) (2003: Yes, to a certain degree (motivation not indicated))
Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries:	No (2003: No)
Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers:	Yes, in all libraries (2003: No)
Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access in the library system in the last two years:	Yes

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities

## Main Indicators

Country Name:	Republic of Macedonia
Population:	2,034,000
Main Language:	Macedonian 68%, Albanian 25%, Turkish 3%, Serbo-Croatian 2%, other 2%
Literacy:	96% (2000)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition





### **Responding institution: Mauritius National Library**

Mauritius is contributing to the World Report for the first time. This report is referring to the 13 public library service points and estimated 155 research libraries in the country.

No information has been provided with regards to anti-terror legislation being passed in Mauritius or if such legislation would negatively impact on user privacy. Likewise, there is no response to the question of violations of intellectual freedom and freedom of access to information. This seems to suggest that there are no major problems with regards to intellectual freedom and this assumption is supported by the fact that the country is not mentioned in Amnesty International's annual report for 2005.

Mauritius' public library service is well equipped to offer the Internet to its users, with 81-100% of public

library service points offering charged-for access. In the country's research libraries however, the number of institutions offering Internet access is much lower (even if the service is free), with 21-40% of service points able to let users go online. Filtering of Internet access does not appear to be much of an issue in Mauritius - the library community is not in favour of filtering and use of the software is not widespread. There have been no extra funds forthcoming from the state for expansion of Internet access in the past two years.

Regarding areas of special focus, Mauritius's libraries are not involved in raising awareness of HIV/AIDS or in the promotion of women's literacy.

A code of ethics was adopted in 2003, but neither the IFLA Internet Manifesto nor the Glasgow Declaration have been adopted. Intentions are to do so in the next two years.



**User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

No information has been provided as to whether or not anti-terror legislation that would adversely affect library users' intellectual freedom has been passed in Mauritius or if such legislation would be considered to have a negative impact on user privacy. The National Library does not think that the keeping of user records is considered to affect the freedom of expression of library Internet users.

**Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

The question regarding whether or not violations of intellectual freedom have occurred in the country in the last two years has not been answered.

**HIV/AIDS awareness**

Libraries are not involved in programmes that raise awareness of HIV/AIDS and have made no efforts to provide HIV/AIDS information to members of the community unable to read.

**Women and freedom of access to information**

Libraries have not been involved in special programmes focusing on the promotion of women's literacy, and they do not specifically promote women's access to social information, education, health or family planning.

**IFLA Internet Manifesto**

The Internet Manifesto has not been adopted but the library association intends to do so in the next two years.

**IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom**

The situation with regards to the Glasgow Declaration is similar. It has not been adopted but the library association intends to do so in the next two years.

**Ethics**

The library association adopted a code of ethics in 2003, and the code has been widely distributed amongst library and information service staff.

### Libraries and Internet Access

This is Mauritius' first contribution to the World Report Series.

Population Online:	12%
Estimated number of public libraries*:	13
Average number of people served by each public library service point:	95,769
Public libraries offering Internet access:	81-100%
Estimated number of research libraries**:	c.155
Research libraries offering Internet access:	21-40%
Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals:	No
Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries:	No
Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers:	Yes, in research libraries only
Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access in the library system in the last two years:	No

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities

### Main Indicators

Country Name:	Mauritius
Population:	1,245,000
Main Language:	English (official), Creole, French (official), Hindi, Urdu, Hakka, Bhojpuri
Literacy:	85.6% (2003)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition





## Mexico

### **Responding institution: National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM)**

This is Mexico's third contribution to the World Report. The questionnaire response relates to the 6,610 public library service points and 1,500 research libraries in the country. No anti-terror legislation that would adversely affect library users' intellectual freedom has been passed in Mexico, and no violations of freedom of access to information have been reported. In 2001, the Mexican response stated that there were no open violations of access to information in the country but poor organisation of libraries and professional bodies, inappropriate budgets and staff resources, and lack of national catalogues were all factors that affected library users' access to information. In 2003, no violations were reported. It seems fair to conclude that intellectual freedom is in an acceptable state but lack of adequate budgets is the main obstacle to information resources.

More and more of Mexico's vast population are coming online - Internet penetration has increased from 3.38% in 2003 to 11.4% in 2005, which is an extra 8,755,075 users in the country as a whole. The amount of public libraries offering Internet access has remained at less than 20% however, and according to the 2005 response the percentage of research libraries with Internet facilities has dropped from 81-100% to 61-80%. While access remains free of charge and is likely unfiltered, progress seems slow in extending Internet facilities throughout the library system.

Regarding other focus areas, libraries in Mexico are not in any way involved in programmes that raise awareness of HIV/AIDS, or in the promotion of women's literacy.

As will be explained further below, there has been some confusion as to the status of adoption of the IFLA Internet Manifesto and the Glasgow Declaration. While the 2003 response indicated both initiatives had been adopted, this year UNAM reports

that neither has been officially taken on board. The incoming President of AMBAC, the national association, has promised to propose the Manifesto and Declaration for adoption this year. The National College of Librarians adopted a code of ethics in 1992.

### **User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

No anti-terror legislation that would adversely affect library users' intellectual freedom has been passed in Mexico, and the respondent offers no opinion on the impact on user privacy if such legislation should be passed. The respondent does not consider that the keeping of user records affects the freedom of expression of the individual library Internet user.

### **Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

No incidents that adversely affect freedom of access to information and freedom of expression have occurred in Mexico in the last two years. Regarding information resources that might further explain the situation facing freedom of access to information, the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) refers to a federal law of transparency and access to governmental public information that was passed on the 11th of May 2004 (Ley Federal de Transparencia y Acceso a la Información Pública Gubernamental). The law makes it possible to organise government archives to make access to information resources easier. Similar legislation has not been passed regarding libraries.

### **HIV/AIDS awareness**

According to UNAM, libraries in Mexico are not involved in programmes to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS and no efforts have been made to provide HIV/AIDS information to members of the community unable to read.

### **Women and freedom of access to information**

Libraries do not have special programmes focusing on the promotion of women's literacy, and do not specifically promote women's access to information on social issues, financial matters, education, health or family planning

### **IFLA Internet Manifesto**

In 2003, it was reported that the IFLA Internet Manifesto had been adopted and would be promoted at the next national congress. This year's response however states that the Manifesto has not been adopted. Following further clarification with the respondent, it seems that the new library association president will propose the initiatives for adoption this year.

### **IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom**

The situation with the Glasgow Declaration is the same as with the Internet Manifesto. It was reported that the Glasgow Declaration had been adopted in 2003 and would be promoted at the next national congress. This year's response however states that the Declaration has not been adopted, but it seems that the new president of

the library association will propose that it be adopted this year.

Ethics

A code of ethics was adopted by the National College

of Librarians in 1992 - that is only by professional librarians. The Asociacion Mexicana de Bibliotecarios (AMBAC) which is the largest and eldest general as-sociation has not adopted a code but intends to adopt a code for all categories of library staff members.

Main Indicators

Country Name:	Mexico
Population:	107,029,000
Main Language:	Spanish, various Mayan, Nahuatl, and other regional indigenous languages
Literacy:	92.2% (2003)
Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition	



### Libraries and Internet Access

The following section compares data and answers from 2005 with the 2003 and (where possible) 2001 IFLA/FAIFE World Reports and adds context from respondent's estimates regarding numbers of public and research libraries.

Population Online: 11.4% (2003: 3.38%; 2001: 2.49%)

Estimated number of public libraries\*: 6610

Average number of people served by each public library service point: 16,192

Public libraries offering Internet access: Less than 20% (2003: Less than 20%)

Estimated number of research libraries\*\*: 1500

Research libraries offering Internet access: 61-80% (2003: 81-100%)

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: Yes, to a certain degree (no motivation listed) (2003: Yes, to a certain degree (no motivation listed))

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: No (2003: No)

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: Yes, in all libraries (2003: Yes, in all libraries)

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access

in the library system in the last two years: Yes

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities



### **Responding institution: National Library of the Republic of Moldova**

This is Moldova's second contribution to the World Report series and it refers to the activities in the country's 1386 public library service points and 192 research libraries. This year's response gives few indications that intellectual freedom in Moldova is in danger - there is no mention of any anti-terror legislation that affects libraries and no incidents that affect freedom of expression.

When comparing the Internet situation in 2003 and 2005 in Moldova it should be noted that the responding institutions differ. In 2003 the library association answered but in 2005 it is the national library. Regardless of this, the 2005 respondent paints a bleak picture of Internet access in the country's library system despite a background of increasing Internet penetration in the country overall. Less than 20% of public and research libraries offer Internet access. Internet access is charged for too, and, while filtering

software is not widespread in libraries, the library association is in favour of using the software to protect children and safeguard public morality.

The Moldovan library community has been involved in programmes that make HIV and AIDS information available to those in the community unable to read. They have also co-operated with women's clubs to promote access to information for women.

The library association has adopted a code of ethics and the Internet Manifesto but there is no comments regarding how these initiatives are implemented in daily work. The Glasgow Declaration has not been adopted, but the association intends to adopt it in the next two years.

### **User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

No anti-terror legislation has been passed in Ireland that would adversely affect the intellectual freedom of library users. However, the respondent did indicate

that future legislation would likely impact on user privacy, and also thought that keeping user records harmed individuals' freedom of expression.

### **Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

There have been no reports of intellectual freedom violations in the past two years. The Moldovan response supplied the following sources for those interested in access to information in the country:

1. The National Strategy of Informational Society Development, Resolution nr. 255, 2005, March 9
2. The Library Law, 1994, October 24
3. The Access to Information Law, Nr. 982-XIV, 2000, Nov 11.

### **HIV/AIDS awareness**

Efforts have been made by Moldovan libraries to promote HIV/AIDS awareness to members of the community unable to read. Exhibitions on the subject have been held in library buildings.

### **Women and freedom of access to information**

While there have been no special programmes focusing on the promotion of women's literacy, there have been efforts made in co-operation with women's clubs to promote women's access to information on topics such as healthcare or education.

### **IFLA Internet Manifesto**

The library association has adopted the Internet Manifesto, but there are no details supplied regarding how it has been promoted.

### **IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom**

The Glasgow Declaration has not been adopted, but the association intends to adopt it in the next two years.

### **Ethics**

The Moldovan library association adopted a code of ethics in 2000. There is no mention of how libraries in the country have implemented the code.



### Libraries and Internet Access

The following section compares data and answers from 2005 with the 2003 IFLA/FAIFE World Report and adds context from respondent's estimates regarding numbers of public and research libraries.

Population Online: 6.8% (2003: 0.34%)

Estimated number of public libraries\*: 1386

Average number of people served by each public library service point: 3035

Public libraries offering Internet access: Less than 20% (2003: Less than 20%)

Estimated number of research libraries\*\*: 192

Research libraries offering Internet access: Less than 20% (2003: 41-60%)

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: Yes, motivated by a need to protect children and safeguard public morality (2003: No)

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: No (2003: No)

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: No (2003: Yes)

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access in the library system in the last two years: No

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities

### Main Indicators

Country Name: Moldova

Population: 4,206,000

Main Language: Moldovan (official, virtually the same as the Romanian language), Russian, Gagauz (a Turkish dialect)

Literacy: 99.1% (2003)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition





### **Responding institution: Metropolitan Central Library of Ulaanbaatar**

This is Mongolia's second contribution to the World Report Series. The response this year, which covers the country's estimated 281 public libraries and 44 research libraries, is straightforward, with little extra information. The intellectual freedom situation in the country appears, based on the questionnaire response, to be stable in that no violations were reported. No mention was made of restrictive anti-terror legislation either.

Internet use is growing in Mongolia as a whole, and in the country's libraries. Internet penetration is up from 1.48% at the time of the last report to 5.4% in 2005. In 2003 the amount of libraries providing Internet access was in the lowest category but now 21-40% of public libraries and 61-80% of research libraries offer access. It appears that the extra help from state authorities reported in the 2003 report has been able to increase access and stop charged-for use in the

public libraries. Filtering does not appear to be an issue in the country either, with the library association maintaining its position on filtering (not in favour). Use of the software in libraries is not widespread.

Although some libraries have been involved in raising awareness of HIV/AIDS through exhibiting books and arranging meetings with health professionals, there have been no efforts in promoting women's access to information or women's literacy.

The library association in Mongolia has not presently adopted a code of ethics, the Internet Manifesto or the Glasgow Declaration, but it does intend to make progress in these areas in the next two years.

### **User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

There is no anti-terror legislation currently affecting library users, and the respondent did not think that library users' privacy would be affected if legislation was passed in the future. It was not felt that users'

freedom of expression was affected by the keeping of user records.

### Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years

There are no reported violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years.

### HIV/AIDS awareness

Libraries in Mongolia have raised awareness of HIV/AIDS by exhibiting books and brochures on the subject, and by arranging meetings with health professionals. No programmes have concentrated on providing HIV/AIDS information to those unable to read.

### Women and freedom of access to information

There have been no programmes to promote wom-

en's literacy, nor specific promotions for women's access to information.

### IFLA Internet Manifesto

While the Internet Manifesto has not been adopted, it has been translated into Mongolian and it is hoped that it will be adopted in the next two years.

### IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom

The Glasgow Declaration has not been adopted, but the library association intends to do so in the next two years.

### Ethics

There is currently no code of ethics for Mongolian librarians, but it is hoped that a code will be adopted in two years.

#### Main Indicators

Country Name:	Mongolia
Population:	2,646,000
Main Language:	Khalkha Mongol 90%, Turkic, Russian (1999)
Literacy:	97.8%

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition



### Libraries and Internet Access

The following section compares data and answers from 2005 with the 2003 IFLA/FAIFE World Report and adds context from respondent's estimates regarding numbers of public and research libraries.

Population Online: 5.4% (2003: 1.48%)

Estimated number of public libraries\*: 281

Average number of people served by each public library service point: 9416

Public libraries offering Internet access: 21-40% (2003: Less than 20%)

Estimated number of research libraries\*\*: 44

Research libraries offering Internet access: 61-80% (2003: Less than 20%)

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: No (2003: No)

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: No (2003: No)

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: Yes, in public libraries only (2003: N/A)

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access

in the library system in the last two years: Yes

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities



### Responding institution: Nepal Library Association

Both the 2003 and 2005 responses for the World Report came from the Nepalese Library Association but the drastic changes in the responses relating to the Internet suggest that the different individuals responding have quite different perceptions of the Nepalese situation. Alternatively, some great changes may have taken place in Nepal's library community in the past two years - a situation that is perhaps not unlikely given the additional information below regarding the condition of intellectual freedom in the country. Nepal has endured a torrid time in the past two years, with an intensification in the dispute between the King and Maoist rebels. This intensification has manifested itself with censorship and the targeting of journalists in 2004 and the King seizing absolute power in 2005. Reporters without Borders go as far as saying that the King's actions in February this year have reversed 15 years of press freedom gains.

Since the time of the last report, overall Internet penetration is slightly up for Nepal as a whole. However, with less than 1% of the population having access to the Internet there is a long way to go to good levels of access. Public libraries are offering the Internet at less than 20% of their service points, as in 2003, but in research libraries it would appear that access levels have slipped significantly - in 2003 81-100% of research libraries offered Internet access, this year it is estimated that only 21-40-% can. Perhaps the most likely explanation for this change is a change in perception regarding what constitutes a research library - the 2003 questionnaire did not ask for estimated numbers of research libraries however, so there is unfortunately no way of comparing the two responses on this point. The alternative to this is large cutbacks in provision of IT facilities in the research and education sector, a worrying thought.

Regardless of this, access is charged for in all libraries, and the state has not made any extra funding available in the past two years to change this. Regard-

ing filtering, it appears a major turnaround has taken place: in 2003 the association was definitely in favour of filtering but in 2005 it has reversed its position. Likewise, filtering software was supposedly widespread throughout libraries in 2003, but in 2005 it is not. Further investigation is needed to clarify this situation.

Nepal's libraries are not currently providing any programmes relating to the two remaining special areas of focus: HIV/AIDS awareness and women's issues.

While the Internet Manifesto has not been adopted in Nepal, the library association does intend to adopt it in the next two years. The Glasgow Declaration is not likely to be adopted however, and nor is a code of ethics.

### **User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

The Nepalese respondent indicated that anti-terror legislation has been passed that adversely affects library users' intellectual freedom, but then goes on to say that it has not affected the library users in using the library. Without further information it is difficult to decipher this situation, but it could be that user numbers have not dropped off despite the ability of law enforcement to access library user records. The way question 4a is worded suggests this. Whatever the situation, the respondent does not give any more information save to say that it is felt that the keeping of library use records does not affect the individual library user.

### **Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

While the Nepalese questionnaire response indicated no violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years, many third party sources suggest otherwise. The International Press Institute reports that as the conflict between Nepal's government and Maoist rebels intensified in 2004, human rights activists and journalists were increasingly caught in the crossfire - leading to violence against journalists of any kind. Moreover, in February 2005, after the King's seizure of power of all levels in the country, all constitutional rights including freedom of expression and the right to information and privacy were suspended. The military imposed total censorship throughout the country, involving newspaper publishers, librarians, researchers and other information providers. The government issued an order asking the media not to print, publish or air anything that conflicted with the royal address of 1 February. Local administrations issued orders to a number of local newspapers to shut down their publications. Newspapers affected included the Naya Yugbodh daily, published from the conflict-hit mid-western district of Dang for the last 28 years. A number of other newspapers from outside Kathmandu have resumed publication, but only after agreeing to the code of conduct framed by the local authorities. Another order gives the government the right to "monitor" all means of communications, including telephone and email messages. Severed Internet links cut off the country from the World, and reports critical of the state of emergency have been banned. The situation in Nepal is deeply worrying.

## Sources:

Amnesty International, 4 May 2005:

<http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/ENGASA310402005?open&of=ENG-NPL>

BBC News, February 2005:

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/south\\_asia/4231605.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/south_asia/4231605.stm)

International Press Institute, 3 March 2005:

[www.freemedia.at/Protests2005/Rep\\_Nepal2005.htm](http://www.freemedia.at/Protests2005/Rep_Nepal2005.htm)

Reporters Without Borders, February 2005:

[www.rsf.fr/article.php3?id\\_article=12485](http://www.rsf.fr/article.php3?id_article=12485)

World Press Freedom Review 2004 By the International Press Institute (IPI):

[www.freemedia.at/wpfr/Asia/nepal.htm](http://www.freemedia.at/wpfr/Asia/nepal.htm)

**HIV/AIDS awareness**

Nepal's libraries have not been involved in any programmes to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS.

**Women and freedom of access to information**

Nepal's libraries are not providing any programmes specifically promoting women's access to information, or women's literacy.

**IFLA Internet Manifesto**

The library association has not adopted the Internet Manifesto but it does intend to in the next two years.

**IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom**

The Glasgow Declaration has not been adopted, and the library association does not intend to do so in the next two years.

**Ethics**

The library association has not adopted a code of ethics, nor does it intend to in the next two years.

**Main Indicators**

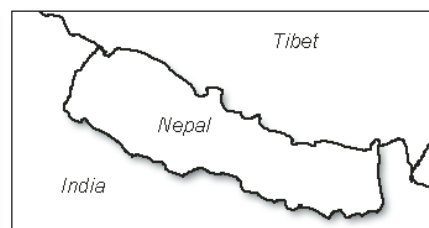
Country Name: Nepal

Population: 27,133,000

Main Language: Nepali (official; spoken by 90% of the population), about a dozen other languages and about 30 major dialects. nb. many in government and business also speak English (1995)

Literacy: 45.2% (2003)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition



### Libraries and Internet Access

The following section compares data and answers from 2005 with the 2003 IFLA/FAIFE World Report and adds context from respondent's estimates regarding numbers of public and research libraries.

Population Online: 0.3% (2003: 0.23%)

Estimated number of public libraries\*: 600

Average number of people served by each public library service point: 45,222

Public libraries offering Internet access: Less than 20% (2003: Less than 20%)

Estimated number of research libraries\*\*: 200

Research libraries offering Internet access: 21-40% (2003: 81-100%)

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: No (2003: Yes, motivated by a desire to protect children, safeguard national ethos/culture and safeguard public morality)

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: No (2003: Yes)

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: No (2003: No)

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access

in the library system in the last two years: No

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities





**Responding institution: Federation of Organisations in the Field of Libraries, Information and Documentation (FOBID)**

The Netherlands responded to the World Report in 2001 and 2003. The response this year refers to 1115 public library service points and 65 academic and higher education libraries in the country. The respondent, FOBID, is the national umbrella organisation for co-operation between the national library organisations. The situation facing Dutch librarians at the moment with regards to intellectual freedom is very worrying. Anti-terror legislation similar to that found in the PATRIOT Act is being proposed by lawmakers and, if passed, it will have an extremely negative effect on library users' privacy and freedom of expression. FOBID is working to raise awareness of the issue at the time of writing, and it is to be hoped that their efforts will meet with success.

Internet access remains very healthy throughout the library community in the Netherlands. Nearly all

public and research libraries offer Internet facilities but users, as in 2003, will have to pay for access. The service is likely to be free of filtering software in all but a few communities. There are a few public and school libraries in the country's 'Bible Belt' which take into account the specific sensitiveness of their communities and use filtering software for reasons of safeguarding religious values. Following a FOBID survey however, generally libraries responded that they do not use filtering software. Most software is quickly out of date and does not work well - it even filters information that should be available and gives a false sense of safety. Libraries in the Netherlands stress the importance of good media education and guidance by parents. There are some good websites which help and support both parents and children. Furthermore, a course has been developed and is widely offered by libraries and attended by parents.

Regarding other areas of special focus, Dutch libraries have made efforts to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS by making materials available on the topic and spe-

cifically targeting the youth members of the community with the information. Libraries have also run programmes related to women's literacy and access to information, with specific efforts being made to reach out to immigrant women who want to learn Dutch.

There is a code of ethics of librarians in the Netherlands, although the respondent suggests that has perhaps faded out of sight and is not used in a day-to-day sense. Neither the Internet Manifesto nor the Glasgow Declaration have been adopted, but the library associations hope to do so in the next two years.

### **User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

The Dutch respondent stated that keeping library user records affects the freedom of expression of the library user. This response comes against a background of proposed regulations which will give governmental agencies the authority to secretly monitor the library-involved activities of any citizen/library user that the government is interested in; libraries can also be obliged to report who is using specific pieces of information. There will be no need for concrete suspicion of preparation of criminal offences, and related people (friends, family) can be involved in the investigations. At present this legislation is still only proposed - FOBIID cannot yet report on actual experiences with it. The library associations organised an awareness raising conference in March 2005 which evoked both professional and media responses. This legislation will certainly have an impact on user privacy.

The following further information is from the European Digital Rights organization (EDRi) biweekly newsletter about digital civil rights in Europe, Number 3.9, 4 May 2005. It is reproduced here in accordance with the Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 License.

### **Strong protest Dutch libraries against access to data**

The public and academic libraries in the Netherlands have united in strong protest against a proposed new law that will give the police extraordinary new access powers to data about readers. The law is now with the Senate and the committee on legal affairs is waiting for answers from the minister after a first critical round of questions. The law addresses all holders of data, from car rent companies to video stores and from private people with databases to any kind of company with data about their customers. Parts of the law have already entered into force, in special legislation for banks and for telephony and Internet providers.

Generally, the law will make it much easier for law enforcement to get access to data, by lowering legal barriers and safeguards. The proposal distinguishes between three kinds of data: identifying data, other data and sensitive data. Identifying data are much more than just name and address. This category includes postal address, date of birth, gender and all kinds of administrative identifiers such as customer number, insurance policy number, bank account or membership numbers. Any police officer can demand 'series' of these identifying data, without any suspicion, as pro-active investigation. These demands can be even be made verbally, on the phone.

Only sensitive data, such as religion, race, political affiliation, health or sexual life still require an authorisation from an independent examining magistrate. Any 'other data' can be ordered by the public prosecutor. This is a massive category of all kinds of data stored in business administrations, but also for example reader profiles held by libraries. Supposedly, people who's 'other data' have been requested without any result, should be notified after the research is closed. But a recent evaluation of the new extraordinary policing powers in the Netherlands revealed that hardly anybody is ever notified. Minister of Justice Donner has already told the Senate that he wants to talk with the public prosecution office to see if this obligation to notify needs a revision, "in case essential investigation interests are at risk."

The Dutch libraries are now alarming a general audience in the Netherlands with their appeal to 'Keep Big Brother out of the library!'. "Libraries are not convinced by soothing remarks that all law enforcement activities in the Netherlands are supervised by the public prosecutor or judge. That provides no guarantee against a too broad use of the powers granted by the draft law. In the United States, where the powers are more broadly defined, many more inquiries have been made than originally claimed, and with a much broader scope than could have been expected from the original intention to fight terrorism. The intended fight against terrorism could thus easily degenerate into a kind of moral police supervision."

The Dutch library protest is similar to the massive protest from libraries, librarians, booksellers, publishers and readers in the United States against the new snooping powers granted in section 215 of

the Patriot Act. On 12 April 2005 this US coalition welcomed a testimony by Attorney General Alberto Gonzales that he is willing to amend the section to protect reader privacy. One approach would be to require the FBI to possess 'specific and articulable facts' indicating 'reason to believe' that the person whose records are sought is a terrorist or foreign agent.

Source: [www.edri.org/edrigram/number3.9/libraries](http://www.edri.org/edrigram/number3.9/libraries)

### **Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

There are no violations of intellectual freedom to speak of in the last two years, although libraries sometimes get police enquiries.

Sources:

FOBID: [www.fobid.nl](http://www.fobid.nl)

FOBID Legal Committee, SURF Foundation: [www.suf.nl/fobid](http://www.suf.nl/fobid)

### **HIV/AIDS awareness**

Libraries in the Netherlands have been involved in programmes to raise awareness of HIV and AIDS. Leaflets on the subject are available in public libraries, especially in youth departments and youth information points. As yet, these efforts have not extended to members of the community unable to read.

### **Women and freedom of access to information**

There have been programmes promoting women's literacy in Dutch libraries. Pilot schemes have taken place in public libraries for immigrant women. Sub-

jects included reading in Dutch, social information, book clubs, Internet access and computer literacy skills. Women's access to education, healthcare or family planning information has been taken up in schemes in a number of branch libraries which have a large community of immigrants as their clientele. The issues are discussed at workshops, lectures and introduction sessions at libraries.

### IFLA Internet Manifesto

The Internet Manifesto has not been adopted, but it is hoped that it will be in the next two years.

### IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom

The Glasgow Declaration has not been adopted either, although it should be in the next two years.

### Ethics

A code of ethics was adopted by the Netherlands Association for Librarians in 1993. It applies only to librarians working in public libraries and is not really applied in practice. Library journals have drawn some attention to it however.

### Main Indicators

Country Name:	The Netherlands
Population:	16,299,000
Main Language:	Dutch (official), Frisian (official)
Literacy:	99% (2000)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition



### Libraries and Internet Access

The following section compares data and answers from 2005 with the 2003 and (where possible) 2001 IFLA/FAIFE World Reports and adds context from respondent's estimates regarding numbers of public and research libraries.

Population Online: 66.3% (2003: 60.56%; 2001: 45.82%)

Estimated number of public libraries\*: 1115

Average number of people served by each public library service point: 14,678

Public libraries offering Internet access: 81-100% (2003: 81-100%)

Estimated number of research libraries\*\*: 65. This regards only the academic and higher education libraries

Research libraries offering Internet access: 81-100% (2003: 81-100%)

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: No (2003: No)

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: No (2003: No)

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: No (2003: No)

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access in the library system in the last two years: No

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\* \* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities



### **Responding institution: Philipsburg Jubilee Library, St. Maarten**

This country report refers to St Maarten, which is part of the Netherlands Antilles in the Caribbean. There is no library association as such on St Maarten but the library community there has responded to the World Report for the second time. The questionnaire response relates to the one public library service point - there is no research library on the island. No anti-terror legislation that would adversely affect library users' intellectual freedom has been passed in the Netherlands Antilles and, as was the case in 2003, no violations of freedom of access to information have occurred on St. Maarten. Based purely on this information, it seems that freedom of access to information and freedom of expression on St. Maarten is healthy.

Internet access in the Netherlands Antilles as a whole has barely increased since 2003 and the situation in the only public library on St Maarten has not changed

either. The library still has Internet access, it is still unfiltered and it still costs to use the facilities. The state is not supporting the library with any extra funds for Internet access but the current situation cannot be considered too bad at all.

Regarding other focus areas, the library on St. Maarten is involved in raising awareness of HIV/AIDS. The library is not involved in programmes focusing on the promotion of women's literacy however.

Neither a code of ethics, the IFLA Internet Manifesto nor the Glasgow Declaration have been adopted and there seems to be no intention to do so in the next two years. With only one library and no association, this is perhaps unsurprising.

### **User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

No anti-terror legislation that would adversely affect library users' intellectual freedom has been passed in the Netherlands Antilles, and no opinion offered

on whether such legislation, if passed, would impact on user privacy. The keeping of user records is considered to affect the freedom of expression of the individual library Internet user.

### Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years

No incidents that adversely affect freedom of access to information and freedom of expression have occurred in St. Maarten in the last two years, and no information resources that might further explain the situation facing freedom of access to information have been listed.

### HIV/AIDS awareness

The library community in St. Maarten is involved in activities such as library exhibitions to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS but no efforts have been made to provide HIV/AIDS information to members of the community unable to read.

### Women and freedom of access to information

The library community does not have special programmes focusing on the promotion of women's literacy, and has not specifically promoted women's access to information on social issues, the economy, education, health or family planning.

### IFLA Internet Manifesto

The IFLA Internet Manifesto has not been adopted and there are no plans to adopt it in the next two years.

### IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom

The Glasgow Declaration has not been adopted either, and no indication is given regarding possible adoption in the next two years.

### Ethics

No code of ethics has been adopted and no indication is given as to future plans for adoption.

### Main Indicators

Country Name: St Maarten, Netherlands Antilles

Population: 39,000 (2000)

Main Language: Dutch and English

Literacy: 96.7% (2003) - this figure is for the Netherlands Antilles as a whole

Population figures and language are from the St Maarten Tourist Web site ([www.st-maarten.com/introduction.htm](http://www.st-maarten.com/introduction.htm)), while literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition



### Libraries and Internet Access

The following section compares data and answers from 2005 with the 2003 IFLA/FAIFE World Report and adds context from respondent's estimates regarding numbers of public and research libraries.

Population Online: (Netherlands Antilles): 1.1% (2003 (Netherlands Antilles): 0.93%)

Estimated number of public libraries\*: 1

Average number of people served by each public library service point: 39,000

Public libraries offering Internet access: 81-100% (2003: 81-100%)

Estimated number of research libraries\*\*: 0

Research libraries offering Internet access: N/A (2003: 41-60%)

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: No (2003: N/A)

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: No (2003: No)

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: No (2003: No)

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access

in the library system in the last two years: No

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\* \* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities





**Responding institution: The Association of Information Professionals of New Caledonia (API)**

New Caledonia is replying to the World Report for the second time. This year's response is referring to the 23 public libraries and 4 research libraries in the country. The intellectual freedom situation in the country is open to question, as the respondent has indicated that in the past two years there have been incidents with the press that have led to protests.

Internet access has improved in New Caledonia's libraries since the 2003 World Report. Overall Internet penetration for the country has increased and access in libraries has improved accordingly. 41-60% of public libraries now provide Internet access and 81-100% of research libraries. In 2003 less than 20% of both public and research libraries offered access. There also appears to have been changes regarding Internet filtering in the past two years, with the library association moving to a definite 'in favour of filtering'

position in order to protect children from harmful online materials. The 2003 response indicated that filtering software was widespread in the country's libraries but now, in 2005, it would appear not to be - despite the library association's new position. Saying this, it should be noted that in some research libraries the computers are filtered to focus Internet surfing on a relevant area of interest only (this is for reasons for cost - access in New Caledonia is expensive and time on Internet terminals is at a premium). The respondent also mentioned that libraries of the Secretariat of the Pacific Library Community do not offer email facilities or commercial websites on the grounds that they are not in competition with cyber cafés. In these libraries Internet access is also filtered in accordance with the institution's sexual harassment policy. This means employees will not be exposed to pornographic materials. Finally, a welcome change from 2003 is that access in research libraries is now free to users, although some public library Internet users will still be charged - access is free in some municipal libraries but in others it is a pay service.

Regarding the special areas of focus, it would appear that no anti-terror legislation has been passed in New Caledonia that would affect the rights of library users. The library community in the country has been active regarding HIV/AIDS awareness, but it is yet to run programmes specifically promoting women's access to information.

Finally, New Caledonia has not adopted a code of ethics, the Internet Manifesto or the Glasgow Declaration. It is not indicated if any of these areas will be tackled in the next two years.

### **User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

There are no reports of anti-terror legislation being passed that would affect the rights of library users. The respondent believed that the keeping of library user records does not affect the individual's freedom of expression.

### **Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

The response from New Caledonia regarding violations of intellectual freedom was brief but intriguing. It appears that in the past two years there have been "issues with the press, incidents of aggressions and then subsequent protests". As the source below details, it appears that a general strike took place in the country last year which affected the local media, especially the broadcasters, from providing information.

Source:

World Press Freedom Review, IPI (International Press Institute) 2004:  
[www.freemedia.at/wpfr/Australasia/newCaledonia.htm](http://www.freemedia.at/wpfr/Australasia/newCaledonia.htm)

### **HIV/AIDS awareness**

Libraries in New Caledonia have been involved in efforts to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS. The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) Library helped edit an SPC grassroots booklet on HIV/AIDS called "ABCDs of HIV/AIDS". Following publication the library arranged for another organisation to translate it into 6 different Pacific Island dialects of Marshallese and distribute it in the Marshall Islands.

### **Women and freedom of access to information**

New Caledonia's library community have not been involved in promotion of women's literacy or the specific promotion of women's access to information.

### **IFLA Internet Manifesto**

The Internet Manifesto has not been adopted, but it is hoped that it will be so in the next two years.

**IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom**

The situation regarding the Glasgow Declaration is the same as the Internet Manifesto - it is not yet adopted, but it hopefully will be in two years.

**Ethics**

There is currently no code of ethics for New Caledonia’s librarians, but it is hoped that one will be adopted in the next two years.

**Main Indicators**

Country Name:	New Caledonia
Population:	237,000
Main Language:	French (official), 33 Melanesian-Polynesian dialects
Literacy:	91% (1976)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition



### Libraries and Internet Access

The following section compares data and answers from 2005 with the 2003 IFLA/FAIFE World Report and adds context from respondent's estimates regarding numbers of public and research libraries.

Population Online: 25.3% (2003: 11.55%)

Estimated number of public libraries\*: 23

Average number of people served by each public library service point: 10,304

Public libraries offering Internet access: 41-60% (2003: Less than 20%)

Estimated number of research libraries\*\*: 4

Research libraries offering Internet access: 81-100% (2003: Less than 20%)

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: Yes, in order to protect children from harmful materials. In some research libraries the computers are filtered to focus Internet surfing on a relevant area of interest only. (2003: No)

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: No (2003: Yes, with the impetus coming from IT sections trying to safeguard themselves from legal and other criticism. This is usually couched in terms of protection of children, but it is not done on any real policy basis)

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: Yes, in research libraries only (2003: No)

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access in the library system in the last two years: Yes

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities



**Responding institution: Library and Information Association of New Zealand Aotearoa (LIANZA)**

This is New Zealand's second contribution to the World Report series. This year's response relates the country's 329 public library service points and a variety of research libraries: 71 tertiary libraries; 189 special libraries; 45 health/medical libraries; 31 law libraries; 11 theological libraries; and 290 school libraries.

There are no reports of intellectual freedom violations in the country from the respondent, and no mention of any problems with anti-terror laws. Based purely on the questionnaire response, it would appear that the current situation with regards to intellectual freedom in New Zealand is good.

Internet penetration increased in New Zealand between 2003 and 2005, up from 52.71% to 58.1%. The country's public and research libraries continued to

provide excellent levels of Internet access, remaining at a level where 81-100% of service points offered the Internet to users. Filtering software carried on being used to a certain degree throughout libraries, a situation no doubt accepted by the library association who are to a degree in favour of its use to protect children. As in 2003, it still will cost users to access the Internet in libraries.

Libraries in New Zealand are not promoting HIV/AIDS awareness through any specific programs, nor are they currently working in areas that promote women's literacy or access to information.

A professional code of conduct has been adopted by the library association, but the Internet Manifesto and the Glasgow Declaration have not been adopted at this point.

**User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

Anti-terror legislation has not been passed that affects

the rights of library users. The respondent indicated that the keeping of user records does not affect library users' freedom of expression.

### **Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

There are no reports of intellectual freedom violations in the past two years.

### **HIV/AIDS awareness**

Libraries in New Zealand have not been involved with any efforts to raise HIV/AIDS awareness in the country, nor have they been involved in providing members of the community unable to read with information about AIDS.

### **Women and freedom of access to information**

New Zealand's libraries are not currently running special programmes promoting women's literacy,

nor are they specifically promoting women's access to information.

### **IFLA Internet Manifesto**

The Internet Manifesto has not been adopted. It is not indicated if the library community intends to do so in the next two years.

### **IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom**

The Glasgow Declaration is not yet adopted either, and there is no indication whether it will be in the next two years.

### **Ethics**

LIANZA adopted a professional code of conduct in 1990, which has been implemented in daily work through principles of practice for individuals.

#### **Main Indicators**

Country Name: New Zealand

Population: 4,028,000

Main Language: English (official), Maori (official)

Literacy: 99% (1980)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition



Libraries and Internet Access

The following section compares data and answers from 2005 with the 2003 IFLA/FAIFE World Report and adds context from respondent's estimates regarding numbers of public and research libraries.

Population Online:	58.1% (2003: 52.71%)
Estimated number of public libraries*:	329 public libraries of which 73 are central libraries and 256 are branches (from July 2004 - current date)
Average number of people served by each public library service point:	12,243
Public libraries offering Internet access:	81-100% (2003: 81-100%)
Estimated number of research libraries**:	71 tertiary libraries; 189 special libraries; 45 health/medical libraries; 31 law libraries; 11 theological libraries; 290 school libraries
Research libraries offering Internet access:	81-100% (2003: 81-100%)
Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals:	Yes, to a certain degree in order to protect children from harmful materials but also to comply with New Zealand 'censorship' (2003: N/A)
Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries:	Yes, to a certain degree (2003: Yes, to a certain degree in order to protect children and safeguard public morality)
Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers:	No (2003: N/A)
Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access in the library system in the last two years:	No

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries  
\* \* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities



### **Responding institution: Institute of History of Nicaragua and Central America (IHNCA)**

Nicaragua first contributed to the World Report in 2003. The questionnaire response relates to the 144 public library service points in the country. No information regarding the estimated number of research libraries has been provided. No anti-terror legislation that would adversely affect library users' intellectual freedom has been passed in Nicaragua, and no violations of or discrimination against libraries and information services have taken place.

Nicaragua's responses in 2003 and 2005 come from the same institution (IHNCA) but it might be surmised that the individuals filling out the questionnaire have different perspectives on the country's libraries, notably towards Internet access. In 2003, for example, it was indicated that 81-100% of research libraries offered Internet access but the 2005 response puts the figure at 21-40% - a much lower figure. Public libraries offer low access too and with Internet

penetration at less than 2% it is clear that Nicaragua's Internet infrastructure is at an early stage. The library community has remained consistent on its filtering position over the course of two World Reports however - it is in favour of filtering, and the use of filtering software continues to be widespread in the country's libraries that are connected to the Internet. Like in 2003, access is free in all libraries.

Regarding other focus areas, no information is provided as to the involvement of libraries in Nicaragua to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS, or to promote women's literacy.

As in 2003, the question regarding the adoption of a code of ethics has not been answered but both the IFLA Internet Manifesto and the Glasgow Declaration have been adopted.

### **User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

No anti-terror legislation that would adversely affect



library users' intellectual freedom has been passed in Nicaragua. The respondent does not offer an opinion whether such legislation, if passed, would impact on user privacy. Neither has the respondent considered if the keeping of user records would affect the freedom of expression of the individual library Internet user. However, the response in 2003 indicated that this does affect users' freedom of expression.

### **Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

No incidents or violations that adversely affect freedom of access to information and freedom of expression have occurred in Nicaragua in the last two years. IHNCA states that regarding access to information, preservation, and the making of damaged documents accessible, no discrimination of information services or the defence of intellectual freedom has taken place in the country. In 2003, an incident concerning access to biographical information about scientists was reported. Access was denied by some libraries on the grounds of 'restricted information'. No information resources that might further explain the situation facing freedom of access to information have been listed.

### **HIV/AIDS awareness**

No indications of libraries' involvement to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS or libraries' efforts to provide HIV/AIDS information to members of the community unable to read have been given.

### **Women and freedom of access to information**

No information has been provided regarding the promotion of women's literacy, or if libraries have specifically promoted women's access to information on social issues, financial matters, education, health and family planning.

### **IFLA Internet Manifesto**

The response in 2003 indicated that the IFLA Internet Manifesto had been adopted, promoted and distributed to the library profession. This year, IHNCA further explains how the manifesto is being implemented in their daily work. They are providing free access to information on the Internet, studying IFLA's programmes, and working in conjunction with some other libraries.

### **IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom**

The response in 2003 indicated that the Glasgow Declaration had been adopted and promoted. This year, IHNCA further explains how the declaration is being implemented in their daily work. As these comments are of general interest to the situation regarding freedom of access to information in the country, we refer to the paragraph on reported incidents.

### **Ethics**

As was the case in 2003, the question regarding adoption of a code of ethics, or plans to adopt, has not been answered.

### Libraries and Internet Access

The following section compares data and answers from 2005 with the 2003 IFLA/FAIFE World Report and adds context from respondent's estimates regarding numbers of public and research libraries.

Population Online: 1.6% (2003: 0.4%)

Estimated number of public libraries\*: 144

Average number of people served by each public library service point: 38,104

Public libraries offering Internet access: Less than 20% (2003: N/A)

Estimated number of research libraries\*\*: N/A

Research libraries offering Internet access: 21-40% (2003: 81-100%)

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: Yes, to protect children and safeguard public morality (2003: N/A)

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: Yes (2003: Yes)

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: Yes, in all libraries (2003: Yes, in all libraries)

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access in the library system in the last two years: N/A

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities

### Main Indicators

Country Name: Nicaragua

Population: 5,487,000

Main Language: Spanish (official) nb. English and indigenous languages on Atlantic coast

Literacy: 67.5% (2003)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition





## Nigeria

### Responding institution: University of Lagos

Nigeria responded to the World Report in 2001 but not in 2003. The respondent estimates that the number of public library service points in the country is 55, but is uncertain about the number of research libraries.

Nigeria has not recently passed any anti-terror legislation but should such legislation be proposed it would not be considered to impact on user privacy. No violations of freedom of access to information have been reported and, as was stressed in the 2001 report, the major challenges facing libraries in Nigeria are not political constraints but economical and structural problems as well as a lack of access to information in rural areas where libraries are almost non-existent.

Provision of Internet access in Nigeria appears to be very difficult. Overall penetration is extremely low, at less than 1% of the population, and less than 20% of public libraries are able to offer Internet access. There

are only 55 public libraries in a country of over 130 million people so the extent to which people are able to use the Internet in a public library is likely to be slim. The respondent suggests that research libraries do not fare much better and states that access in all libraries, while likely to be unfiltered, will cost the user. There is a long way to go regarding provision of Internet access in Nigeria and therefore a long journey for the country's libraries to undertake too.

Regarding other focus areas, libraries in Nigeria are involved in programmes that raise awareness of HIV/AIDS and they also provide information on the subject to members of the community unable to read. Libraries are promoting women's literacy in co-operation with the Association of Women Librarians (AWLIN).

The IFLA Internet Manifesto and the Glasgow Declaration have not been adopted and no indications have been reported of intentions to adopt in the next two

years. It remains unclear whether or not a code of ethics has been adopted.

### **User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

Anti-terror legislation that would adversely affect library users' intellectual freedom has not been passed in Nigeria, and it is considered unlikely that future legislation would negatively impact on user privacy. The respondent does not think that the keeping of user records will affect the freedom of expression of the individual library Internet user.

### **Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

No incidents that adversely affect freedom of access to information and freedom of expression have occurred in Nigeria in the last two years. In the 2001 report, it was considered that structural and economical rather than political constraints were facing libraries.

### **HIV/AIDS awareness**

Through radio announcements and the distribution of posters, libraries in Nigeria are involved in programmes that raise awareness of HIV/AIDS, and through public enlightenment programmes they also provide information on the subject to members of the community unable to read.

### **Women and freedom of access to information**

Through the Association of Women Librarians (AWLIN), libraries are engaged in special enlightenment programmes focusing on the promotion of women's literacy, and they specifically promote women's access to information on social issues, economics, education, health, and family planning as well.

### **IFLA Internet Manifesto**

The Internet Manifesto has not been adopted and the question concerning possible intentions to do so in the next two years has not been answered.

### **IFLA Glasgow Declaration On Libraries, Information Services And Intellectual Freedom**

The situation regarding the Glasgow Declaration is the same. It has not been adopted and the question concerning possible intentions to do so in the next two years has not been answered.

### **Ethics**

There exists some uncertainty as to whether or not a code of ethics has been adopted. It is reported that a code has been adopted, but not when, and that intentions are to adopt a code in the next two years.

## Libraries and Internet Access

Nigeria responded to the 2001 edition of the World Report series, before data collection was standardised. Consequently it has not been possible to compare any information, although Internet penetration figures are available from 2001.

Population Online: 0.6% (2001: 0.08%)

Estimated number of public libraries\*: 55

Average number of people served by each public library service point: 2,391,455

Public libraries offering Internet access: Less than 20%

Estimated number of research libraries\*\*: Unable to answer

Research libraries offering Internet access: 21-40%

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: Yes, but no motivation given

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: No

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: No

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access  
in the library system in the last two years: No

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities

## Main Indicators

Country Name: Nigeria

Population: 131,530,000

Main Language: English (official), Hausa, Yoruba, Igbo (Ibo), Fulani

Literacy: 68% (2003)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition





### **Responding institution: Norwegian Library Association**

Norway responded to the World Report in 2001 and 2003. The country report refers to 890 public library service points and 336 research libraries. Based purely on the Norwegian questionnaire response it would seem that intellectual freedom is currently in a good state in the country. No violations of intellectual freedom are reported, and no anti-terror legislation has been passed that might negatively impact on library users.

Internet access in Norway remains extremely healthy. Internet penetration is among the highest in the world at 68% and 81-100% of public and research libraries provide Internet access, as in 2003. The library association does not favour filtering, nor is use of the software widespread in the country's libraries. Access is free in all libraries.

Special libraries in Norway are involved with HIV/

AIDS awareness programmes but information is disseminated throughout all libraries on the subject. Women's access to information initiatives are also running in the country, with libraries co-operating with integration programmes to offer information on relevant topics.

The Norwegian Library Association has not yet adopted a code of ethics, but it has adopted the Internet Manifesto and Glasgow Declaration which are publicised in all libraries. The association hopes to adopt a code of ethics within the next two years.

### **User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

No anti-terror legislation has been passed in Norway that adversely affects library users, although the respondent indicated that if legislation is passed in future it will likely affect user privacy. There was no indication as to whether or not the respondent thought the keeping of user records affected users' freedom of expression.

**Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

No incidents have occurred in the past two years that have negatively impacted on library users' intellectual freedom.

**HIV/AIDS awareness**

Libraries in Norway have been involved in HIV/AIDS awareness programmes. Some special libraries (at medical and health institutions) are gathering and distributing special literature and information on the subject. All libraries support the authorities' campaigns in this field.

**Women and freedom of access to information**

While Norwegian libraries have not specifically targeted women's literacy as an area of focus, the library community has made efforts to promote women's access to information as part of some local integration projects.

**IFLA Internet Manifesto**

The Norwegian Library Association has adopted the Internet Manifesto, and has produced and published posters and brochures promoting it. These materials have been distributed to all libraries for internal discussion and dissemination to library users.

**IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom**

The Glasgow Declaration has been adopted and promoted in the same way as the Internet Manifesto.

**Ethics**

The Norwegian Library Association does not currently have a code of ethics, but it does intend to adopt one in the next two years.

### Libraries and Internet Access

The following section compares data and answers from 2005 with the 2003 and (where possible) 2001 IFLA/FAIFE World Reports and adds context from respondent's estimates regarding numbers of public and research libraries.

Population Online: 68% (2003: 59.22%; 2001: 52.6%)

Estimated number of public libraries\*: 890

Average number of people served by each public library service point: 5191

Public libraries offering Internet access: 81-100% (2003: 81-100%)

Estimated number of research libraries\*\*: 336

Research libraries offering Internet access: 81-100% (2003: 81-100%)

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: No (2003: No)

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: No (2003: No)

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: Yes, in all libraries (2003: Yes, in all libraries)

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access

in the library system in the last two years: No

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities

### Main Indicators

Country Name: Norway

Population: 4,620,000

Main Language: Bokmal Norwegian (official), Nynorsk Norwegian (official), small Sami- and Finnish-speaking minorities

Literacy: 100% (Year unknown)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition







**Responding institution: Department of Libraries, National Library of Pakistan**

This is the first time that Pakistan has contributed to the World Report, and its contribution gives us data regarding the number of libraries in the country, the extent of Internet access offered in libraries and the approach taken by the nation library association towards the World Report's special areas of focus. The response gives the impression that Pakistan's library service will be seeking to expand its activities and influence in the coming years.

At present it appears that very low levels of Internet access exist in both the public library system and in the country's research libraries, a situation consistent with the very low level of Internet penetration in the country - less than 1% of the population are considered to be Internet users. Despite this, the association has taken a stand on Internet filtering even if the use of software is not widespread - they are in favour of filtering for reasons that include protection

of children; national security; safeguarding of religious values; safeguarding of national ethos/culture; and the safeguarding of public morality. The state has made funding available to library authorities to increase access but at present access is only free in research libraries.

Pakistan reports no violations of intellectual freedom, nor does it seem like there are any problems regarding anti-terror legislation. However, third party sources point out that press freedom in the country is in a worrying condition. Regarding the other special issues focused on in the data collection process, the library authorities are not presently involved in any programs designed to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS or provide HIV/AIDS information to members of the community unable to read. Likewise, there are currently no programs promoting women's literacy or access to information. The overall literacy rate in the country stands at just over 45% at present so it is to be hoped that in the future emphasis might be placed on these potential areas of library service.

The library association does not currently have a code of ethics, nor does it intend to adopt one in the next two years. The Internet Manifesto and Glasgow Declaration have also not been adopted, but should be in the next two years.

### **User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

The respondent indicated that no anti-terror legislation had been passed that adversely affected library users' intellectual freedom. It was also indicated that the respondents did not believe that keeping user records as a result of any such legislation affected library users' freedom of expression.

### **Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

The Pakistan response reports no violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years. However, information from third party sources does suggest a strained environment for press freedom. In the World Press Freedom Review 2004 by the International Press Institute (IPI), it is stated that journalists in the country are constantly being arrested and harassed, preventing them from reporting about sensitive issues. The government's ban on advertising has also caused concern as it included advertising in a number of leading daily newspapers - depriving them of a vital source of funds to publish the newspapers. According to the IPI, many of these newspapers had published criticism about the government.

Furthermore, and dealing with dissemination of information on the Internet, in May 2005 the

International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), expressed concern about the proposed Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority Amendment Bill (2004) which, according to the organisation's press release, could be a serious threat to the freedom of the press in the country. At the time of writing it is unclear how the passage of the bill is proceeding.

Sources:

Daily Times Pakistan, 28 April 2005:

[www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=story\\_29-4-2005\\_pg7\\_36](http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=story_29-4-2005_pg7_36)

IFEX Update, 10 May 2005:

[www.ifex.org/en/content/view/full/66751/](http://www.ifex.org/en/content/view/full/66751/)

### **HIV/AIDS awareness**

The library authorities are not presently involved in any programs designed to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS or provide HIV/AIDS information to members of the community unable to read.

### **Women and freedom of access to information**

The respondent indicated that there are currently no programs promoting women's literacy or access to information on social issues, financial matters, education, health or family planning. According to the CIA World Factbook, women's literacy stood at 30.6% in 2003 so it would appear there is a real need to address literacy issues in the country.

### **IFLA Internet Manifesto**

The Internet Manifesto has not been adopted but the association intends to do in the next two years. In light

of the association’s position on the keeping of user records mentioned above, it will be interesting to see how the association deals with the Manifesto’s commitment to user privacy (“Libraries and information services should respect the privacy of their users and recognize that the resources they use should remain confidential.”)

**IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom**

The Glasgow Declaration has not been adopted but the association intends to do in the next two years.

**Ethics**

The library association does not currently have a code of ethics, nor does it intend to adopt one in the next two years.

**Main Indicators**

Country Name:	Pakistan
Population:	157,935,000
Main Language:	Punjabi 48%, Sindhi 12%, Siraiki (a Punjabi variant) 10%, Pashtu 8%, Urdu (official) 8%, Other 14%
Literacy:	45.7%
Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition	



### Libraries and Internet Access

This is Pakistan's first contribution to the World Report.

Population Online: 0.9%

Estimated number of public libraries\*: 500

Average number of people served by each public library service point: 315,870

Public libraries offering Internet access: Less than 20%

Estimated number of research libraries\*\*: 2000

Research libraries offering Internet access: Less than 20%

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: Yes, motivated by the need to protect children; protect national security; safeguard religious values; safeguard national ethos/culture; and safeguard public morality.

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: No

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: Yes, in research libraries only

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access in the library system in the last two years: Yes

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities



### **Responding institution: (On behalf of the) Papua New Guinea Library Association**

This is Papua New Guinea's first contribution to the World Report. The report is straightforward and suggests that there are currently no problems relating to intellectual freedom in the country. It refers to the country's 21 public libraries and estimated 100 research libraries.

Internet access in the country appears to be at very early stages of development. Overall penetration is very low at 1.3% and the respondent indicated that low funding levels mean it is impossible for the public libraries to provide any Internet access at present. The country's research libraries, on the other hand, are able to provide good access to users - 81-100% of research libraries are said to provide Internet facilities. There is no indication regarding filtering in the country, but the respondent does state that Internet access is charged for, and that no government funds have been forthcoming for Internet access in the last

two years - no doubt contributing to the situation in the public libraries.

Regarding the special areas of focus, no anti-terror legislation exists in the country that would impact on library users. Libraries have been involved in raising awareness of HIV/AIDS through poster displays in library buildings. They have also focused on women's literacy through national book week activities.

The library association in Papua New Guinea has not adopted a code of ethics, or the Internet Manifesto or the Glasgow Declaration but it intends to work on adopting all these initiatives in the next two years.

### **User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

No anti-terror legislation exists in Papua New Guinea that would affect library users. No indication was made regarding whether or not keeping user records affects users' freedom of expression, but the respond-

ent points out that freedom of information is a constitutional right in the country.

### **Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

There have been no violations of intellectual freedom reported in the past two years.

### **HIV/AIDS awareness**

Libraries in Papua New Guinea have raised awareness of HIV/AIDS by putting up posters and displays in library buildings and by being access points for brochures on the subject.

### **Women and freedom of access to information**

The National Library's annual National Book Week activities encourage women as equal partners in the development of Papua New Guinea as a nation.

### **IFLA Internet Manifesto**

The Internet Manifesto has not been adopted, but it is hoped that it will be so in the next two years.

### **IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom**

The situation regarding the Glasgow Declaration is the same as the Internet Manifesto - it is not yet adopted, but the library association intends to do so in two years.

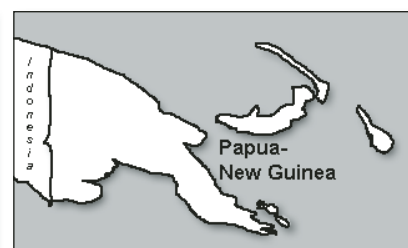
### **Ethics**

The library association has not currently adopted a code of ethics, but it intends to do so in the next two years.

### **Main Indicators**

Country Name:	Papua New Guinea
Population:	5,887,000
Main Language:	Melanesian Pidgin serves as the lingua franca, English spoken by 1%-2%, Motu spoken in Papua region
Literacy:	64.6% (2002)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition



Libraries and Internet Access

This is Papua New Guinea’s first contribution to the World Report Series.

Population Online:	1.3%
Estimated number of public libraries*:	21 (Papua New Guinea has a public library in 18 out of 19 provinces - Central Province does not have a public library. In addition to the provinces there is the National Capital District which has 3 public libraries)
Average number of people served by each public library service point:	280,333
Public libraries offering Internet access:	Less than 20%. The respondent indicated that public libraries at present lack the funds to provide Internet access
Estimated number of research libraries**:	c.100
Research libraries offering Internet access:	81-100%
Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals:	N/A
Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country’s libraries:	N/A
Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers:	No
Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access in the library system in the last two years:	No

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\* \* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities



### Responding institution: Colegio de Bibliotecólogos del Peru

This is Peru's first contribution to the World Report. The responses in the questionnaire refer to the country's estimated 2048 public library service points and 204 research libraries. Based purely on the Peruvian questionnaire response it would seem that intellectual freedom is currently in a good state in the country. No violations of intellectual freedom are reported, and no anti-terror legislation has been passed that might negatively impact on library users.

Internet penetration in the country currently stands at 10.2%, a respectable figure for current rates in Latin America. Within the library system however, access levels are low at this point in time, with less than 20% of public libraries providing Internet access, and 21-40% of research libraries. Internet access is free in public libraries and the government has made some extra funding available for increasing access. Regarding

filtering, the library association is to degree in favour of using filtering and use of the software is to a degree widespread as a result.

Regarding special areas of focus, libraries in Peru have been involved in programmes designed to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS. There has been some emphasis on online materials to publicise the topics, but efforts have also been made to help those without Internet access and those unable to read through provision of audio materials and radio announcements. Libraries in the country have also worked with NGO's to raise awareness of women's literacy, and libraries have become part of networks designed to improve women's access to information.

There is a code of ethics for Peruvian librarians. The Internet Manifesto and Glasgow Declaration have not been adopted but the respondent indicates that they both would be in the next two years.



### **User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

No anti-terror legislation has been passed in Peru that would adversely affect the intellectual freedom of library users. The respondent did indicate that keeping user records harmed individuals' freedom of expression.

### **Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

There have been no reported violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years.

### **HIV/AIDS awareness**

There are four institutions that have libraries offering information on their website about AIDS (Via Libre, IES, Impacta, INPARES). Other initiatives undertaken by libraries include the loan of audiovisual materials on the topic; online resources including a reading service via email; an online bulletin on HIV/AIDS; and distribution of brochures in libraries. The Calandria Project Action on AIDS also has information on their web site, and distributes an institutional bulletin for Latin America. For members of the community unable to read it mails communication tools such as CDs and makes announcements on the radio.

Further information can be obtained from:  
César Nureña, Centro de Documentación AC Impacta - Salud y Educación, Grimaldo del Solar 805, Miraflores, Lima, Peru.  
cnurena@impactaperu.org  
www.impactaperu.org

### **Women and freedom of access to information**

Programmes focusing on women's literacy were started by the Women Ministry and Social Development (MIMDES), and then transferred to the Education Ministry but they eventually disappeared. There have also been some initiatives by NGOs to promote women's literacy but not library initiatives. Many institutions offer information about women issues and/or have a library in Peru. Three initiatives are worth detailing:

Flora Tristán ([www.flora.org.pe](http://www.flora.org.pe)). This organisation has done an important job by helping women to know about their rights and helping them to get an identification card (DNI) prior to undertaking education and literacy programmes. The organization provides reading and lending services.

MIMDES ([www.mimdes.gob.pe](http://www.mimdes.gob.pe)). One of the objectives of Peru's Women Ministry and Social Development library is to support libraries in rural and low-income neighbourhoods with an emphasis on reading materials.

CENDOC Mujer ([www.cendoc-mujer.org.pe](http://www.cendoc-mujer.org.pe)). This is the only institution created as an information centre for women. Besides its collections and services (as well as their important online specialized bulletins), they are part of a network of documentation centres located in different cities linked by a common topic: women and gender. CENDOC Mujer has been part of this network since it began training staff.

Information by:  
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Luis Alejandro Ramirez Caldas  
laramirez@mimdes.gob.pe

**IFLA Internet Manifesto**

The Internet Manifesto has not been adopted. It is hoped that it will be in the next two years.

**IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom**

The Glasgow Declaration has also not been adopted. Again, it is hoped that it will be in the coming two years.

**Ethics**

Peru’s librarians have a code of ethics that was adopted in 1997.

**Main Indicators**

Country Name:	Peru
Population:	27,968,000
Main Language:	Spanish (official), Quechua (official), Aymara, and a large number of minor Amazonian languages
Literacy:	90.9% (2003)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition



Libraries and Internet Access

This is Peru's first contribution to the World Report series.

Population Online:	10.2%
Estimated number of public libraries*:	2408
Average number of people served by each public library service point:	11,615
Public libraries offering Internet access:	Less than 20%
Estimated number of research libraries**:	204
Research libraries offering Internet access:	21-40%
Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals:	Yes, to a certain degree, motivated by a desire to protect children and safeguard public morality
Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries:	Yes, to a certain degree
Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers:	Yes, in public libraries only
Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access	Yes

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries  
\* \* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities



### **Responding institution: National Library of the Philippines**

The Philippines is contributing to the World Report for the second time. This year's response relates to the estimated 1039 public library service points and 131 research libraries in the country. Based on the response regarding violations of intellectual freedom it would appear that there is little to trouble library users in the Philippines at present. In the near future, however, the respondent does mention a proposed anti-terror bill that might impact on library use by allowing law enforcement access to library records. The status of this bill at the time of writing is unclear.

Internet penetration in the Philippines has increased to 9.4% since the 2003 World Report and while the amount of public libraries providing Internet access remains low there has been an encouraging increase in the amount of research libraries that can offer Internet access to users. Access is charged for in all

libraries however. Filtering is still an issue for the Philippine library community - in 2003 all possible motivations were listed for using filtering software even if the software itself was not widely used. The 2005 response shows that there is still great concern about the nature of information available to library users on the Internet, and filtering software is now used to an extent in libraries.

Libraries in the Philippines have promoted HIV/AIDS awareness throughout the communities they serve, and have provided information for those community members unable to read. Through co-operation with women's organisations, the libraries are also able to promote women's literacy and access to information issues.

The association has adopted a code of ethics but unfortunately there were no responses regarding the Internet Manifesto or the Glasgow Declaration.

**User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

The respondent mentions that there is an anti-terror bill proposed but that its impact on library users is pending. If it is passed, the respondent does believe that authorities will have the power to easily access library records and even personal files.

**Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

There are no violations of intellectual freedom to report.

**HIV/AIDS awareness**

Libraries in the Philippines have been involved in promoting awareness of HIV/AIDS through workshops and seminars and through the conferences of the country's different library associations. Members of the community unable to read have been supplied with information through broadcast media and outreach programs.

**Women and freedom of access to information**

The National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW) is an advisory body to the President and cabinet on policies and programmes for the advancement of women. It conducts policy

studies and lobbying for the issuance of executive and legislative measures concerning women. It also manages a clearinghouse and information centre on women. Libraries have undertaken activities to promote women's literacy and access to information through co-operation with this organisation, and by organising activities such as lectures to celebrate Women's Day. Activities deal with the situation of women, gender relations and family health and its implications for human development.

**IFLA Internet Manifesto**

There was no answer regarding the Manifesto.

**IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom**

There was no answer regarding the Glasgow Declaration.

**Ethics**

There is a code of ethics for librarians in the Philippines and it was founded in 1992 after Philippines librarians developed ideal practices and work ethics. The respondent reports that the code has become a necessary guide for librarians in maintaining standards of ethical behaviour in relation with the state, society, clients and colleagues in the profession.

### Libraries and Internet Access

The following section compares data and answers from 2005 with the 2003 IFLA/FAIFE World Report and adds context from respondent's estimates regarding numbers of public and research libraries.

Population Online: 9.4% (2003: 5.32%)

Estimated number of public libraries\*: 1039

Average number of people served by each public library service point: 79,936

Public libraries offering Internet access: Less than 20% (2003: Less than 20%)

Estimated number of research libraries\*\*: 131

Research libraries offering Internet access: 41-60% (2003: Less than 20%)

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: Yes, to a certain degree in order to protect children, prevent criminal activity and safeguard public morality (2003: Yes, to a certain degree in order to protect children, protect national security, safeguard religious values, safeguard national ethos/culture, prevent criminal activity and safeguard public morality)

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: Yes, to a certain degree (2003: No)

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: No (2003: No)

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access in the library system in the last two years: No

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities

### Main Indicators

Country Name: Philippines

Population: 83,054,000

Main Language: Filipino (based on Tagalog) and English

Literacy: 92.6% (2002)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition





### **Responding institution: Polish Library Association**

Poland is responding the World Report for the second time. This year's response, referring to 8700 public library service points and 3000 research libraries, contains little additional information and based purely on the questionnaire response it would seem that intellectual freedom is currently in a healthy in the country. No violations of intellectual freedom are reported, and no anti-terror legislation has been passed that might negatively impact on library users.

Use of the Internet continues to grow in Poland with 2005 figures suggesting that nearly 30% of the population are now Internet users. 81-100% of the country's research libraries provide Internet access, as in 2003, but there has been an increase in the amount of public libraries providing access since the time of the last World Report - 21-40% of public library service points now offer free Internet access to users. Regarding filtering, the Polish Library Association is not in

favour of using filtering software, nor is actual use of the software widespread in libraries.

Libraries in Poland have made efforts to provide information on HIV and AIDS to those members of the community unable to read. They have also been involved in initiatives to promote women's access to information but there are no details supplied regarding programmes for either special issue.

The Polish Library Association has adopted the Internet Manifesto and the Glasgow Declaration, and it adopted a code of ethics very recently. All of these initiatives have been promoted in the library community.

### **User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

The Polish response does not mention any anti-terror legislation that has been passed to the detriment of library users. The respondent indicates that the keep-

ing of user records does not harm the freedom of expression of the individual library user.

### **Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

The response states that there have been no violations of intellectual freedom in Poland in the past two years.

### **HIV/AIDS awareness**

While libraries have not been involved in programmes to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS in general, the response does indicate that there have been efforts made to provide HIV/AIDS information to members of the community unable to read. Unfortunately there are no details of these efforts in the response.

### **Women and freedom of access to information**

The response indicates that libraries have not set up special programmes that focus on the promotion of women's literacy, but they have been involved in

promoting women's access to information. Again, it is unfortunate that there are no accompanying details regarding these promotional activities.

### **IFLA Internet Manifesto**

The Polish Library Association adopted the Internet Manifesto. The Manifesto has been discussed on the Internet, at library meetings and in professional library journals.

### **IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom**

The Glasgow Declaration has also been adopted in Poland. It has been published on the Internet, discussed in library journals and debated at some conferences.

### **Ethics**

The Polish Library Association adopted a code of ethics this year (2005). The code has been discussed on the Internet, at different library meetings and in professional library journals.



### Libraries and Internet Access

The following section compares data and answers from 2005 with the 2003 IFLA/FAIFE World Report and adds context from respondent's estimates regarding numbers of public and research libraries.

Population Online: 27.5% (2003: 16.57%)

Estimated number of public libraries\*: 8700

Average number of people served by each public library service point: 12,843

Public libraries offering Internet access: 21-40% (2003: Less than 20%)

Estimated number of research libraries\*\*: 3000

Research libraries offering Internet access: 81-100% (2003: 81-100%)

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: No (2003: No)

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: No (2003: No)

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: Yes, in public libraries only (2003: No)

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access  
in the library system in the last two years: Yes

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities

### Main Indicators

Country Name: Poland

Population: 38,530,000

Main Language: Polish

Literacy: 99.8% (2003)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition





**Responding institution: Biblioteca Judeteana  
"Octavian Goga" Cluj**

This is the first time Romania has contributed to the World Report and its contribution refers to 2835 public libraries and 258 branches - there is no estimate made of the number of research libraries in the country and questions regarding Internet access in research libraries are not answered. The respondent is the President of the National Association of Public Libraries and Librarians of Romania. The questionnaire response contains little additional information and gives few indications that intellectual freedom in the country is in danger - there is no mention of any incidents that have affected freedom of expression.

Internet penetration stands at 18.4% in Romania - some 4 million users in a country of just over 21 million people. The respondent did not supply information about the Internet access situation in the country's research libraries, but did state that less than 20% of the public libraries offer free Internet

access. Access is likely to be filtered however, as use of filtering software is widespread in the libraries. The library association is in favour of this situation to a degree, as it believes there is a need to protect children from harmful online materials and to safeguard public morality. The low levels of Internet access in the public libraries may be the result of funding problems - no extra funds have been forthcoming from the state in the last two years to develop Internet infrastructure in libraries.

Regarding areas of special focus, there has been no anti-terror legislation passed that has the capacity to adversely affect libraries. Libraries in Romania have not been involved in promoting HIV/AIDS awareness or women's access to information in any way.

The Romanian library association has not adopted the Internet Manifesto, the Glasgow Declaration or a code of ethics. The responses indicate that work leading to the adoption of these initiatives will be carried out over the next two years.

User privacy and anti-terror legislation

No anti-terror legislation has been passed in Romania that negatively affects the intellectual freedom of library users. The respondent also thought that future legislation would not impact on user privacy, and that keeping user records did not harm individuals' freedom of expression.

Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years

There are no reports of any intellectual freedom violations in the last two years.

HIV/AIDS awareness

Libraries in Romania have not been involved in any programmes promoting HIV/AIDS awareness.

Women and freedom of access to information

Likewise, Romania's libraries have not been involved in initiatives designed to promote women's literacy or access to information.

IFLA Internet Manifesto

The Internet Manifesto has not been adopted. It is hoped that it will be in the next two years.

IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom

The Glasgow Declaration has also not been adopted. Again, it is hoped that it will be in the coming two years.

Ethics

The library association in Romania does not currently have a code of ethics, but it intends to adopt a code in the next two years.

Main Indicators

Country Name:	Romania
Population:	21,711,000
Main Language:	Romanian (official), Hungarian, German
Literacy:	98.4% (2003)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition



### Libraries and Internet Access

This is Romania's first contribution to the World Report Series.

Population Online: 18.4%

Estimated number of public libraries\*: 3093 (2835 Public libraries and 258 branches)

Average number of people served by each public library service point: 7019

Public libraries offering Internet access: Less than 20%

Estimated number of research libraries\*\*: N/A

Research libraries offering Internet access: N/A

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: Yes, to a certain degree in order to protect children and safeguard public morality

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: Yes

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: Yes, in all libraries

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access

in the library system in the last two years: No

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\* \* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities



### Responding institution: National Library of Russia

This is the second time Russia has contributed to the World Report. The report below refers to activities in the country's 49,000 public library service points and 2000 research libraries. The intellectual freedom situation in the country is not encouraging, with the questionnaire response mentioning the effects of federal law on freedom of expression. It appears that funds are being allocated to pro-government information resources at the expense of libraries and that independent media generally is suffering under the current conditions.

The Internet might be expected to fill the hole left by the gradual disappearance of independent media in Russia but it does not appear that libraries are able to help by offering access. Internet penetration in Russia has increased since the 2003 report but levels of access in both public and research libraries have remained the same - less than 20% of libraries can provide In-

ternet access to users. Authorities have not made any extra funding available to remedy this situation in the last four years. Access to the Internet is free in the public libraries that do offer it, but it appears from the response that research libraries are now charging for access which is a change from 2003. The filtering situation in Russia's libraries remains the same as in 2003 however - the association is not in favour of filtering Internet access and yet use of filtering software is widespread. As in 2003, this situation is open to interpretation. It could be that libraries are forced to use filtering software by law even if it conflicts with the position taken by the profession.

Regarding the two remaining special issues, HIV/AIDS awareness and women's access to information, Russian libraries are not yet partaking in any programmes to promote these subjects.

Finally, the Russian library association has adopted and promoted a code of ethics, and also the Internet Manifesto and Glasgow Declaration which are being

promoted through periodicals and seminars.

### **User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

The respondent indicated that there are no current anti-terror laws that directly affect libraries. It would appear though, according to additional sources mentioned below, that anti-terror legislation is creating a climate unsuited to freedom of expression in Russia. The Russian questionnaire response also indicated that keeping user records does harm users' information seeking choices.

### **Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

The respondent indicated that the situation in Russia regarding intellectual freedom could be considered grave. Federal law is imposing restrictions on mass media and opposition political parties. Libraries are being affected by the situation too - budgets are being affected by the acquisition of funds by pro-government information resources. Further to this, an IFEX report in February 2005, by Russian journalist Grigory Pasko expressed that media in the country is still not free, despite the rule of democracy in Russia for over a decade. According to Pasko, changes to laws in the past few years have resulted in a rollback for press freedom and democracy in Russia. The number of independent newspapers is falling and censorship is slowly returning. There is also an anti-terrorism law which severely hinders freedom of expression, another law that removes the right to hold referenda and tax laws that give the state more powers to control how non-governmental organisations receive foreign funds.

#### **Sources:**

IFEX - Regional News Russia, February 2005:  
[www.ifex.org/en/content/view/full/64818/](http://www.ifex.org/en/content/view/full/64818/)  
 Kommission on Freedom of Access to Information:  
[www.ksdi.ru/](http://www.ksdi.ru/)  
 Freedom of speech on the Russian Internet:  
<http://slovo.rinet.ru/>

### **HIV/AIDS awareness**

Russian libraries have not been involved in any programmes to raise HIV/AIDS awareness.

### **Women and freedom of access to information**

Russian libraries have not been part of any programmes to promote women's literacy or access to information.

### **IFLA Internet Manifesto**

The library association has adopted the Internet Manifesto and publicised it in the main professional periodicals, as well as at seminars on implementation.

### **IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom**

The library association has adopted the Glasgow Declaration and publicised it in the main professional periodicals. Seminars have also been held on implementation.

## Ethics

The Russian library association adopted a code of ethics in 1999. The “Code of Professional Ethics of the Russian Librarian” has been promoted in professional periodicals, on the association website and at annual conferences since 1999. A lot of seminars have been held. However, despite the traditions of the library as

a place of public enlightenment which educates people and raises their moral standards, some Russian librarians are finding it difficult to implement their code of ethics. The easy access to Internet materials such as pornography, casino games, suicide websites is causing an ethical dilemma regarding filtering - librarians don't want to filter Internet access but they may be forced to in order to restrict access to sites that conflict with the library's traditions.

### Main Indicators

Country Name:	Russia
Population:	143,202,000
Main Language:	Russian
Literacy:	99.6% (2003)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition



### Libraries and Internet Access

The following section compares data and answers from 2005 with the 2003 IFLA/FAIFE World Report and adds context from respondent's estimates regarding numbers of public and research libraries.

Population Online: 15.6% (2003: 12.42%)

Estimated number of public libraries\*: 49,000

Average number of people served by each public library service point: 2922

Public libraries offering Internet access: Less than 20% (2003: Less than 20%)

Estimated number of research libraries\*\*: 2000

Research libraries offering Internet access: Less than 20% (2003: Less than 20%)

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: No (2003: No)

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: Yes (2003: Yes. This situation is motivated by a perceived need to protect children and safeguard public morality)

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: Yes, in all libraries (2003: Yes, in public libraries only)

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access

in the library system in the last two years: No

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities





### **Responding institution: Nevis Public Library Service**

Nevis is one half of Saint Kitts and Nevis, Caribbean Islands that became independent in 1983. The details below do not cover Saint Kitts, but instead they give a picture of the library situation on Nevis, the smaller of the two islands. Nevis is contributing to the World Report for the first time. The questionnaire response relates to the island's 2 public library service points and 11 research libraries. No information has been provided with regards to anti-terror legislation that would affect library users' intellectual freedom, or violations of freedom of access to information. As Nevis is contributing for the first time, it is therefore difficult to paint a picture of the state of freedom of access to information and freedom of expression on the island.

St. Kitts and Nevis' overall Internet penetration on Nevis stands at 23% and the questionnaire response states that library Internet users on Nevis are well

served. It would appear that nearly all public and research libraries offer Internet access for free although the respondent did not indicate if this access was likely to be filtered or not. The library community's position on filtering is that it might be needed to protect children from harmful materials and therefore it might be that some filtering does take place.

Regarding other focus areas, libraries on Nevis are involved in programmes that raise awareness of HIV/AIDS but not in any initiatives regarding the promotion of women's literacy.

Neither a code of ethics, the IFLA Internet Manifesto nor the Glasgow Declaration have been adopted. It is indicated that the Glasgow Declaration will be adopted in the next two years however.

### **User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

The question as to whether or not anti-terror legislation that would adversely affect library users' intellec-

tual freedom has been passed has not been answered, but if such legislation should be passed the respondent thinks it would impact on user privacy. The Nevis Public Library Service does not consider that the keeping of user records affects the freedom of expression of the individual library Internet user.

### **Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

The question regarding whether or not incidents or violations that adversely affect freedom of access to information and freedom of expression have occurred on Nevis in the last two years has not been answered either. No information resources that might further explain the situation facing freedom of access to information have been listed.

### **HIV/AIDS awareness**

Libraries on Nevis are involved in activities to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS. Activities include distribution of materials, acquisition of books and videos, participation in activities for adults, and the holding of exhibitions on information about HIV/AIDS.

Efforts have also been made to provide HIV/AIDS information to members of the community unable to read but they are not detailed in the response.

### **Women and freedom of access to information**

Libraries do not have special programmes focusing on the promotion of women's literacy, and do not specifically promote women's access to information.

### **IFLA Internet Manifesto**

The IFLA Internet Manifesto has not been adopted and there are no intentions to adopt it in the next two years.

### **IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom**

The Glasgow Declaration has not been adopted either, but intentions are to adopt it in the next two years.

### **Ethics**

A code of ethics has not been adopted and there are no intentions to adopt one in the next two years.

## Libraries and Internet Access

This is Nevis' first contribution to the World Report.

Population Online: (Saint Kitts and Nevis): 23.3%

Estimated number of public libraries\*: 2

Average number of people served by each public library service point: 5,000

Public libraries offering Internet access: 81-100%

Estimated number of research libraries\*\*: 11

Research libraries offering Internet access: 81-100%

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: Yes, to a certain degree in order to protect children from harmful content

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: N/A

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: Yes, in all libraries

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access in the library system in the last two years: Yes

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\* \* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities

## Main Indicators

Country Name: Nevis (part of Saint Kitts and Nevis)

Population: 10,000

Main Language: English

Literacy: 97% (1980) - this figure is for Saint Kitts and Nevis as a whole

Population figures are from the Nevis Tourism Authority Website ([www.nevisisland.com/Index.htm](http://www.nevisisland.com/Index.htm)) while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition





### **Responding institution: Serbian Academic Library Association**

This is Serbia and Montenegro's second response to the World Report and it refers to activities in the country's 599 public library service points and 1645 research libraries. The response notes that the last few years for libraries have been difficult and it is likely that this contributes to the lack of additional information on the World Report 2005's special areas of focus. While no violations of intellectual freedom are mentioned in the response third party sources suggest that there exists a difficult environment for journalists in Serbia at the moment, which has implications for information flow in the country.

The Internet access situation in Serbia and Montenegro seems to be improving since the 2003 World Report response. Overall Internet penetration has increased from 3.75% to 8.1% and the amount of public and research libraries providing Internet access

has also increased - 21-40% of public libraries and 41-60% of research libraries now offer the Internet to their users, free of charge. Regarding filtering of access, the 2005 response is the same as in 2003 - the library association is not in favour of filtering and use of filtering software is not widespread in libraries.

Regarding areas of special focus, there has been no anti-terror legislation passed that has the capacity to adversely affect libraries. Serbia and Montenegro's libraries have not been involved in promoting HIV/AIDS awareness or women's access to information in any way.

A code of ethics for librarians was adopted in Serbia and Montenegro in 1998 and it has been well publicised in the country's libraries. The Internet Manifesto and Glasgow Declaration have been publicised but not adopted, and the association hopes to formally adopt them in the next two years.

### **User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

No anti-terror legislation has been passed in Serbia and Montenegro that would adversely affect the intellectual freedom of library users. The respondent did indicate that keeping user records harmed the individual's freedom of expression.

### **Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

The questionnaire reports no violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years. However, according to the IPI (International Press Institute) 2004 World Press Freedom Review, journalists in Serbia still work under extremely dangerous conditions, with continuing attacks on journalists and publishers. Also, in March 2005 the government issued a draft on free access to information to which the media freedom organisation, Article 19, expressed deep concern. In an open letter by Article 19 and the Montenegrin Helsinki Committee, the law was partly criticised for not complying with international standards, and for failing to provide "well defined exemptions to the right of access to information, thereby excluding information of significant public interest from the public domain" as expressed in the letter. At the time of writing the status of the bill is uncertain.

#### **Sources:**

IPI World Press Freedom Review 2004:  
[www.freemedia.at/wpfr/Europe/fry.htm](http://www.freemedia.at/wpfr/Europe/fry.htm)  
 Article 19/IFEX, 25 March 2005:  
[www.ifex.org/en/content/view/full/65563/](http://www.ifex.org/en/content/view/full/65563/)

### **HIV/AIDS awareness**

Libraries in Serbia and Montenegro have not been involved in any programmes promoting HIV/AIDS awareness.

### **Women and freedom of access to information**

Likewise, libraries in the country have not been involved in initiatives designed to promote women's literacy or access to information.

### **IFLA Internet Manifesto**

The Internet Manifesto has not yet been adopted in Serbia and Montenegro, although librarians have been informed about the Manifesto through its translation in the library journals 'Glasnik' 1/2002 and 'Infoteka' 2/2003. The association intends to adopt the Manifesto in the next two years.

### **IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom**

Likewise, the Glasgow Declaration has not yet been adopted although librarians have been informed about it through its translation in the library journals mentioned above in association with the Manifesto. The association intends to adopt the Glasgow Declaration in the next two years.

### **Ethics**

The library association in Serbian and Montenegro adopted a code of ethics in 1998. Although the past years have not been convenient to librarianship in

the country, librarians have tried to do their duties with the Code of Serbian Librarians in mind. The Code has been printed and many libraries have given it pride of place in the main library room. The respondent suggests that the statement in the Code "The librarian is open to the new knowledge and user needs and is permanently continuing his professional development" could be more stressed in order to sup-

port librarians coping with changes. In connection with the code and intellectual freedom, the Faculty of Philology of Belgrade University and the biggest libraries in Serbia organised the international conference "Intellectual Freedom and Modern Libraries" in the year 2003. The thoughts of the conference are now present in libraries via the conference proceedings published last year.

### Main Indicators

Country Name:	Serbia and Montenegro
Population:	10,503,000
Main Language:	Serbian 95%, Albanian 5%
Literacy:	93% (1991)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition



### Libraries and Internet Access

The following section compares data and answers from 2005 with the 2003 IFLA/FAIFE World Report and adds context from respondent's estimates regarding numbers of public and research libraries.

Population Online: 8.1% (2003: 3.75%)

Estimated number of public libraries\*: 599

Average number of people served by each public library service point: 17,534

Public libraries offering Internet access: 21-40% (2003: Less than 20%)

Estimated number of research libraries\*\*: 1645

Research libraries offering Internet access: 61-80% (2003: 41-60%)

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: No (2003: No)

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: No (2003: No)

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: Yes, in all libraries (2003: Yes, in all libraries)

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access  
in the library system in the last two years: Yes

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities



### Responding institution: Seychelles National Library

This is the Seychelles' first contribution to the World Report. There are 4 public library service points in the country - one main library and three branches, and 8 research libraries.

The Seychelles has not passed any anti-terror legislation but should such legislation be passed it is considered that it would affect user privacy. No incidents or violations that adversely affect freedom of access to information and freedom of expression have occurred in the Seychelles in the last two years.

The Seychelles has a small number of libraries that are well served with Internet access. Access is free in research libraries but users of the public libraries will have to pay. The respondent did not indicate the library association's position on filtering but it does appear that filtering software is used to a degree on

library Internet-connected computers in order to protect children and safeguard public morality.

Regarding other focus areas, libraries in the Seychelles are involved in programmes that raise awareness of HIV/AIDS but are not engaged in the provision of information to members of the community unable to read. Libraries are not involved in any programmes focusing on the promotion of women's literacy.

There are no answers to the questions regarding adoption or possible adoption of the IFLA Internet Manifesto, the Glasgow Declaration, or a code of ethics.

### User privacy and anti-terror legislation

Anti-terror legislation that would adversely affect library users' intellectual freedom has not been passed in the Seychelles. If such legislation should be passed, the National Library thinks it likely that it would



impact on user privacy. The keeping of user records is considered to affect the freedom of expression of the individual library Internet user.

### **Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

No incidents that adversely affect freedom of access to information and freedom of expression have occurred in the Seychelles in the last two years.

### **HIV/AIDS awareness**

Libraries are involved in programmes that raise awareness of HIV/AIDS by special displays of books, articles and posters. There are no initiatives to provide information on the subject to members of the community unable to read.

### **Women and freedom of access to information**

Libraries do not have special programmes focusing on the promotion of women's literacy, and neither

do they specifically promote women's access to information on economics, education, health, or family planning.

### **IFLA Internet Manifesto**

The question regarding whether or not the library association has adopted or intends to adopt the Internet Manifesto has not been answered.

### **IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom**

The question regarding whether or not the library association has adopted or intends to adopt the Glasgow Declaration has not been answered.

### **Ethics**

The question regarding whether or not the library association has adopted or intends to adopt a code of ethics has not been answered.

#### **Main Indicators**

Country Name: Seychelles

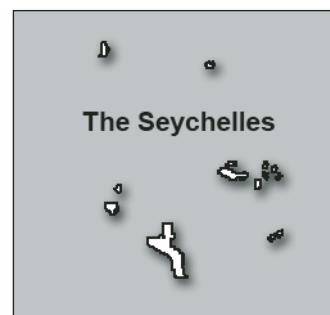
Population: 81,000

Main Language: English (official), French (official), Creole

Literacy: 58% (1971)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition

**The Seychelles**



### Libraries and Internet Access

This is the Seychelles' first contribution to the World Report series.

Population Online: 14.4%

Estimated number of public libraries\*: 4 (1 main library and 3 branches)

Average number of people served by each public library service point: 20,250

Public libraries offering Internet access: 81-100%

Estimated number of research libraries\*\*: 8

Research libraries offering Internet access: 81-100%

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: N/A

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: Yes, to a certain degree in order to protect children and safeguard public morality

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: Yes, in research libraries only

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access in the library system in the last two years: N/A

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities



## Sierra Leone

### **Responding institution: Sierra Leone Association of Archivists, Librarian and Information Scientists (SLAALIS)**

This is Sierra Leone's first contribution to the World Report. The information below relates to the country's 6 public library service points and 50 research libraries.

Based purely on the questionnaire response, it would appear that no recent anti-terror legislation has been passed in Sierra Leone. No incidents that adversely affect freedom of access to information and freedom of expression have occurred in the country in the last two years. In its annual report for 2004, Amnesty International states that the human rights situation in the country continues to improve with increased security and stability.

The Internet has not yet taken off in Sierra Leone and the overall penetration rate is extremely low at 0.1%. Unsurprisingly, the small number of libraries in the

country are struggling to provide any form of access - less than 20% of public and research libraries are able to provide the Internet to their users. When Internet access can be found, it will cost. The position on filtering - in favour to a certain degree, with all motivations listed - invites speculation that the library community is extremely worried about the types of information that can be found online and how it might affect users. Correspondingly, use of filtering software is to a degree widespread in the libraries that do provide Internet access.

Regarding other focus areas, libraries in Sierra Leone are involved in programmes that raise awareness of HIV/AIDS, and these programmes have been extended to members of the community unable to read. Libraries are also involved in programmes focusing on the promotion of women's literacy and access to information.

The library association adopted a code of ethics in 1996 and holds conferences for members to imple-

ment professional values. The library association has not adopted the IFLA Internet Manifesto or the Glasgow Declaration but intends to do so in the next two years.

### **User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

No anti-terror legislation that would adversely affect library users' intellectual freedom has been passed in Sierra Leone, but if such legislation should be passed the association does not think it would impact on user privacy. Neither does the association consider that the keeping of user records affects the freedom of expression of the individual library Internet user.

### **Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

No incidents that adversely affect freedom of access to information and freedom of expression are reported to have occurred in Sierra Leone in the last two years.

Further information:

Amnesty International Report 2005:

[www.amnesty.org/report2005/sle-summary-eng](http://www.amnesty.org/report2005/sle-summary-eng)

### **HIV/AIDS awareness**

To raise awareness of HIV/AIDS, libraries are involved in seminars, workshops, book displays and special talks about the subject. Special efforts to provide information on HIV/AIDS to members of the community unable to read include video shows, musical sensitizations, drama and slide shows.

### **Women and freedom of access to information**

Libraries also play an active role in the promotion of women's literacy by running special adult literacy programmes. Other programmes are arranged at community resource centres and also the community radio broadcasts specific programmes on the subject. Libraries in Sierra Leone specifically promote women's access to information on social issues, the economy, education, health, and family planning by arranging book talks. This work is supported by activities at the community resource centres and community radio programmes.

### **IFLA Internet Manifesto**

The library association has not adopted the Internet Manifesto but it intends to do so in the next two years.

### **IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom**

The situation with regards to the Glasgow Declaration appears to be the same. The Declaration has not been adopted but the library association intends to do so in the next two years.

### **Ethics**

Sierra Leone Association of Archivists, Librarian and Information Scientists (SLAALIS) adopted a code of ethics in 1996. The implementation of the code has taken place at conferences organised by the association.

## Libraries and Internet Access

This is Sierra Leone's first contribution to the World Report series.

Population Online: 0.1%

Estimated number of public libraries\*: 6

Average number of people served by each public library service point: 920,833

Public libraries offering Internet access: Less than 20%

Estimated number of research libraries\*\*: 50

Research libraries offering Internet access: Less than 20%:

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: Yes, to a certain degree in order to protect children, protect national security, safeguard religious values, safeguard national ethos/culture, prevent criminal activity and safeguard public morality

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: Yes, to a certain degree

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: No

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access in the library system in the last two years: No

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities

## Main Indicators

Country Name: Sierra Leone

Population: 5,525,000

Main Language: English (official, regular use limited to literate minority), Mende (principal vernacular in the south), Temne (principal vernacular in the north), Krio (a first language for 10% of the population but understood by 95%)

Literacy: 31.4% (1995)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition





### **Responding institution: Singapore National Library Board**

This is Singapore's second contribution to the World Report and it refers to the country's 40 public libraries and 9 research libraries. The response this year seems encouraging, in that it is indicated that the situation regarding intellectual freedom in the country has improved. Third party sources however reveal that there are problems relating to the use of the Internet in the country, and the use of defamation laws to silence criticism of the government online.

Overall Internet penetration in Singapore appears to have dropped slightly although this may be down to the use of different methodologies for calculating user figures. Whatever the situation, nearly half of the population can go online and 81-100% of public and research libraries are providing access to the Internet. Access is charged for in public libraries however. The Singapore library community has moved to a more definite position on filtering in its 2005 response,

with the association now being definitely in favour in filtering access on the grounds of protecting children and safeguarding public morality. Use of filtering software reflects this - it is now widespread throughout the country's libraries.

Information on this year's special areas of focus is hard to come by in the Singaporean response. No activities relating to HIV/AIDS awareness were undertaken within the library system. Regarding promotion of women's information access, it does appear that libraries do play a role in women's literacy through something called the WISH organisation.

Singapore's library association has adopted a code of ethics but it has not adopted the Internet Manifesto or Glasgow Declaration and it does not intend to adopt them in the next two years.

### **User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

The Singapore response indicated that there was no

current anti-terror legislation affecting libraries, that future legislation would not impact upon user privacy, and that the keeping of user records does not violate the individual's freedom of expression.

### **Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

While the Singaporean response indicates that the intellectual freedom situation in the country has become more liberalised in the past two years, it would appear that authorities' mistrust of Internet users is a cause for concern. Harsh defamation laws, often used by politicians to stop criticism in the media, were used in May 2005 to make a Singaporean blogger to shut down his site and post an apology for criticizing the government in his blog. The case highlights the new threats to Singaporean freedom of expression in cyberspace. In November 2003 RSF (Reporters without Borders) reported a new amendment of the Computer Misuse Act was passed that enables complete surveillance of an Internet user. The act has previously been criticized for giving the government extra powers to control the Internet and any expansion of it raises concerns for future restrictions of free expression and the right to know.

Sources:

IFEX Update, 6 May 2005:

[www.ifex.org/en/content/view/full/66462/](http://www.ifex.org/en/content/view/full/66462/)

Reporters Without Borders, July 2004:

[www.rsf.org/article.php3?id\\_article=10771&Validar=OK](http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=10771&Validar=OK)

World Press Freedom Review 2003, IPI (International Press Institute) 2003:

[www.freemedia.at/wpfr/Asia/singapor.htm](http://www.freemedia.at/wpfr/Asia/singapor.htm)

### **HIV/AIDS awareness**

Libraries in Singapore have not been involved in promoting HIV/AIDS awareness, nor are they involved in providing information on HIV/AIDS to members of the community unable to read.

### **Women and freedom of access to information**

While Singapore's libraries have not been specifically promoting access to certain types of information such as health materials and family planning, there is something in the country called the WISH programme which promotes women's literacy. Further details on the programme were not forthcoming.

### **IFLA Internet Manifesto**

The association has not adopted the Internet Manifesto, and it does not intend to do so in the next two years.

### **IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom**

Likewise, the Glasgow Declaration has not been adopted, and will not be in the next two years.

### **Ethics**

The library association in Singapore adopted a code of ethics in 1980. It is currently in the process of being revised by an ad-hoc committee on ethics. The code is implemented in daily work through ethical behaviour and high levels of professionalism. The code itself can be found at: [www.las.org.sg/constit.htm](http://www.las.org.sg/constit.htm)

### Libraries and Internet Access

The following section compares data and answers from 2005 with the 2003 IFLA/FAIFE World Report and adds context from respondent's estimates regarding numbers of public and research libraries.

Population Online:	49.4% (2003: 51.88%)
Estimated number of public libraries*:	40 (22 public libraries, inclusive of the national library, and 18 community children's libraries)
Average number of people served by each public library service point:	108,150
Public libraries offering Internet access:	81-100% (2003: 81-100%)
Estimated number of research libraries**:	3 university libraries, 6 polytechnic libraries
Research libraries offering Internet access:	81-100% (2003: 81-100%)
Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals:	Yes, motivated by a desire to protect children from harmful content and safeguard public morality (2003: Yes, to a certain degree in order to protect children from harmful content)
Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries:	Yes (2003: Yes, to a certain degree)
Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers:	No (2003: Yes, in research libraries)
Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access in the library system in the last two years:	Yes

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities

### Main Indicators

Country Name:	Singapore
Population:	4,326,000
Main Language:	Chinese (official), Malay (official and national), Tamil (official), English (official)
Literacy:	92.5% (2002)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition







### **Responding institution: National and University Library**

Slovenia responded to the World Report in 2001 and 2003. This year's response, covering an estimated 366 public library service points and 205 research libraries, contains little additional information on special areas of focus. Based purely on the questionnaire it would seem that intellectual freedom is currently in a good state in the country. No violations of intellectual freedom are reported, and no anti-terror legislation has been passed that might negatively impact on library users.

While Internet penetration has increased in Slovenia in the last two years to a healthy 40.7%, the amount of libraries providing access to the Internet is the same as in 2003 - 41-60% of public libraries and 81-100% of research libraries offer the Internet to their users. Use of the Internet is free in all libraries. The library association appears to have changed its position on filtering since the last report in 2003. The last

response indicated that the association was in favour of filtering and that the software was used to a degree in the country's libraries to protect children. This year's response reverses this situation - the library association is now not in favour of filtering and the software appears to no longer be widespread in the library system. This is an encouraging development in terms of unhampered Internet access, even if the reason for such a turnaround is unclear.

Regarding areas of special focus, libraries in Slovenia have not been involved in promoting HIV/AIDS awareness or women's access to information in any way.

The library association in Slovenia has adopted a code of ethics which has had positive effects on the country's librarians and libraries. The Internet Manifesto has been adopted and so has the Glasgow Declaration - which has been very successfully adapted into Slovenian library policy.

**User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

No anti-terror legislation has been passed in Slovenia that would adversely affect the intellectual freedom of library users. The respondent did indicate that keeping user records harmed individuals' freedom of expression.

**Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

There have been no reported violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years.

**HIV/AIDS awareness**

Libraries in Slovenia have not been involved in any programmes promoting HIV/AIDS awareness.

**Women and freedom of access to information**

Likewise, the country's libraries have not been involved in initiatives designed to promote women's literacy or access to information.

**IFLA Internet Manifesto**

The Internet Manifesto has been adopted and translated into Slovenian. It has been published in a newsletter and on the library association website.

**IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom**

The Glasgow Declaration has also been adopted, translated into Slovenian and then published in a newsletter and on the association's website. It is difficult to say whether it has influenced the daily work of libraries or not, but it has certainly influenced the opinion makers amongst librarians. The Slovenian Library Association Manifesto on Development of Slovenian Libraries, issued in 2004, has implemented practically all its ideas.

**Ethics**

The library association adopted a code of ethics in 1995. It was published as a leaflet and disseminated among library workers. Consequently, it would appear that librarians have gained more self-confidence and sensitivity with regards to ethical issues, whether in connection with their own rights or the rights of library users.

### Libraries and Internet Access

The following section compares data and answers from 2005 with the 2003 and (where possible) 2001 IFLA/FAIFE World Reports and adds context from respondent's estimates regarding numbers of public and research libraries.

Population Online:	40.7% (2003: 31.04%; 2001: 23%)
Estimated number of public libraries*:	366
Average number of people served by each public library service point:	5374
Public libraries offering Internet access:	41-60% (2003: 41-60%)
Estimated number of research libraries**:	205
Research libraries offering Internet access:	81-100% (2003: 81-100%)
Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals:	No (2003: Yes)
Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries:	No (2003: Yes, to a certain degree in order to protect children)
Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers:	Yes, in all libraries (2003: Yes, in public libraries)
Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access in the library system in the last two years:	Yes

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities

### Main Indicators

Country Name:	Slovenia
Population:	1,967,000
Main Language:	Slovenian 92%, Serbo-Croatian 6.2%, other 1.8%
Literacy:	99.7% (2003)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition





**Responding institutions: Asociación Andaluza De Bibliotecarios (AAB); Asociación Nacional De Bibliotecarios, Archiveros Y Documentalistas (ANABAD); Federación Española De Sociedades De Archivista, Biblioteconomía, Documentación Y Museista (FESABID)**

Spain contributed to the World Report in 2001 but not in 2003. The report this year is referring to 4500 public library service points and 500 research libraries. According to this year's response there have been no violations of intellectual freedom reported, and no reports of anti-terror legislation that would impede library users. In light of this it would appear that the situation relating to freedom of access to information in Spain is in good shape.

Internet access in Spain increased from 13.72% in 2001 to 34.7% in 2005. 41-60% of public library service points and 81-100% of research libraries offer Internet access to their users free of charge. While the library association is to a degree in favour of filtering

- in order to reduce children's exposure to harmful materials online - actual use of filtering software is not widespread in the country's libraries. Regarding charges, the European Council approved the 'Internet in the Libraries' programme in 2002. The program provides public libraries with free Internet access via European and state funds given to the autonomous communities. Access is also free in research libraries.

Regarding areas of special focus, while public libraries are not involved in programmes to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS or initiatives to support women's literacy, it appears that some special libraries have connections with these issues and have undertaken actions to provide information where needed.

The Internet Manifesto and Glasgow Declaration have not been adopted in Spain, although both initiatives have been publicised online. Librarians in the country do not yet have a code of ethics, and it is unclear whether or not this situation will change in the next two years.

**User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

The response from the three Spanish library associations mentioned above stated that no anti-terror legislation has been passed in the country that would adversely affect the intellectual freedom of library users. The respondents went on to indicate that keeping user records harmed individuals' freedom of expression.

**Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

There have been no violations of intellectual freedom that have affected Spanish libraries in the past two years.

**HIV/AIDS awareness**

The response from Spain indicates that libraries have not been involved in programmes to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS. Instead, programmes of this sort can be found in health and family planning centres co-ordinated by municipal planning departments.

**Women and freedom of access to information**

Although the respondents indicated that public libraries have not been involved in promoting wom-

en's literacy or access to information, it was pointed out that there are women's literacy programs (and access to information initiatives) organised by municipal and counselling organisations, and even by specialised libraries such as the Women's Institute.

**IFLA Internet Manifesto**

While the Internet Manifesto has not been adopted, it has been made available to those interested on the website of the Spanish Culture Ministry:  
<http://travesia.mcu.es/textos.asp>

**IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom**

As with the Internet Manifesto, the Glasgow Declaration has not been adopted but it is displayed on the Culture Ministry's website (see above for the URL) and the Andalusian library association has made it accessible on their website as well: [www.aab.es/pdfs/IFLA70.pdf](http://www.aab.es/pdfs/IFLA70.pdf)

**Ethics**

The Spanish library community does not currently have a code of ethics and the respondents does not indicate whether it is intended to adopt one in the next two years.

### Libraries and Internet Access

Spain contributed to the World Report in 2001 but not in 2003 when new data collection procedures were introduced. Consequently, only online population figures can be compared.

Population Online: 34.7% (2001: 13.72%)

Estimated number of public libraries\*: 4500

Average number of people served by each public library service point: 9570

Public libraries offering Internet access: 41-60%

Estimated number of research libraries\*\*: 500

Research libraries offering Internet access: 81-100%

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: Yes, to a certain degree in order to protect children from harmful materials

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: No

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: Yes, in all libraries

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access in the library system in the last two years: Yes

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities

### Main Indicators

Country Name: Spain

Population: 43,064,000

Main Language: Castilian Spanish 74%, Catalan 17%, Galician 7%, Basque 2%; note  
- Castilian is the official language nationwide; the other languages are official regionally

Literacy: 97.9% (2003)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition





### Responding institution: Sri Lankan Library Association (SLLA)

Sri Lanka contributed to the World Report in 2001 but not in 2003. It is estimated that over one million people were affected by the tidal wave in the region at the end of 2004. Amidst this catastrophe a large number of school libraries, community libraries, children's libraries, public libraries, libraries belonging to religious institutions and a large number of private/home libraries in the affected areas either have either been completely destroyed or severely affected. This situation is of course affecting freedom of access to information and the IFLA press release on the 28th December 2004 refers those who can help in any way to the Director of the National Library and Documentation Board of Sri Lanka for more details (dg@mail.natlib.lk).

Aside from the aftermath of the tidal wave, the overall situation in the country with regards to intellectual freedom seems to be volatile, although the respond-

ent does point out that a lot of incidents relating to freedom of expression do not affect libraries directly.

Internet penetration is currently very low in Sri Lanka and only 1.2% of the population can currently be called Internet users. Levels of access in the country's libraries are correspondingly low - less than 20% of public and research libraries can provide access, and it is only free to use in research libraries. The library association is in favour of filtering to a certain degree, but the use of filtering software is not widespread. The motivations behind this position reveal the association to be worried about many aspects of the Internet including children's surfing habits but also there are concerns about accessing information that could threaten national security.

Libraries in Sri Lanka are not currently involved in any programmes to promote HIV/AIDS awareness, nor are they working to promote women's literacy. The association does have a code of ethics, but it has

not adopted the Internet Manifesto or the Glasgow Declaration at this point.

### **User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

There are no anti-terror laws currently affecting libraries and the users in Sri Lanka. The respondent indicated that keeping user records does affect their library user's freedom of expression.

### **Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

While the respondent mentioned that there are many incidents relating to violations of freedom of expression in Sri Lanka, it was also pointed out that they are not directly related to libraries. Instead there may be issues regarding freedom of speech, such as the imprisonment of politicians for speaking out against the government (see source below). There will be a forthcoming information bill for Sri Lanka, which is currently in draft stage. Our respondent tried to obtain a copy of the bill from the Free Media movement, but was unfortunately without luck.

Source: [www.sbdissanayake.com/](http://www.sbdissanayake.com/)

### **HIV/AIDS awareness**

Libraries in Sri Lanka are not involved in any programmes to promote HIV/AIDS awareness.

### **Women and freedom of access to information**

Neither are libraries involved in campaigns to promote women's literacy, or to promote women's access to information on topics such as healthcare or education.

### **IFLA Internet Manifesto**

The Internet Manifesto has not yet been adopted, but it is hoped that it will be adopted in the next two years.

### **IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom**

Likewise, the Glasgow Declaration is not yet adopted, but in two years time it might be.

### **Ethics**

The Sri Lankan Library Association adopted a code of ethics in 1998.



## Libraries and Internet Access

Sri Lanka contributed to the World Report in 2001 but not in 2003 when new data collection procedures were introduced. Consequently, only online population figures can be compared.

Population Online: 1.2% (2001: 0.34%)

Estimated number of public libraries\*: 935

Average number of people served by each public library service point: 22,185

Public libraries offering Internet access: Less than 20%

Estimated number of research libraries\*\*: 2749 School libraries - 2490 temporary library rooms (Source: School Census Report, 2003, Ministry of Education); 13 university libraries; 32 faculty libraries; 134 other research libraries (Source: National Library, Sri Lanka)

Research libraries offering Internet access: Less than 20%

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: Yes, to a certain degree in order to protect children, protect national security, prevent crime and safeguard public morality

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: No

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: Yes, in research libraries

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access in the library system in the last two years: No

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\* \* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities

## Main Indicators

Country Name: Sri Lanka

Population: 20,743,000

Main Language: Sinhala (official and national language) 74%, Tamil (national language) 18%, other 8%. nb. English is commonly used in government and is spoken competently by about 10% of the population

Literacy: 92.3% (2003)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition





### **Responding institution: Swaziland National Library Service**

Swaziland contributes to the World Report for the second time. There is a small library service in the country by the respondent's estimates, with 15 public library service points and 15 research libraries. While no anti-terror legislation has recently been passed in Swaziland, it would appear that the intellectual freedom situation in the country is under pressure from a Royal Decree that restricts dissemination of various publications. This decree, detailed further below, has greatly concerned the national library service.

Swaziland's Internet penetration has doubled since the last World Report and now stands at 2.6%. The number of libraries providing Internet access in the country has held steady - 21-40% of the country's small library system provides Internet access. In 2003 it was thought that this access might be filtered but the 2005 response indicates the association is now

against filtering Internet access and use of filtering software is not widespread. While it is not free to use the Internet in Swaziland's libraries at present the government continues to make extra funds available for libraries to increase access. It is possible that continued funding may make access free for users in the future.

Regarding other focus areas, libraries in Swaziland are involved in programmes that raise awareness of HIV/AIDS - which extend to members of the community unable to read. Libraries are likewise involved in programmes focusing on the promotion of women's literacy and access to information.

The National Library Service adopted a code of ethics in June 2004 and is now in the process of implementing it into professional values. The library service has not adopted the IFLA Internet Manifesto or the Glasgow Declaration but intends to do so in the next two years.

### **User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

No anti-terror legislation that would adversely affect library users' intellectual freedom has been passed in Swaziland. Should such legislation be passed the respondent thinks it would impact on user privacy. The respondent indicates that the keeping of user records is considered to affect the freedom of expression of the individual library Internet user.

### **Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

The National Library Service is concerned about the intellectual freedom situation in the country. In June 2001 a Royal Decree that adversely affects freedom of access to information and freedom of expression in the country was issued. The Decree allows the banning of publications without providing any possibility of appeal, and restricts the freedom of expression of the media and opposition. The country is not only facing censorship and violations of Article 19 of the UN Universal Declaration on Human Rights, according to Amnesty International human rights in general are at risk.

Sources:

Amnesty International 2002 Report:  
<http://web.amnesty.org/web/ar2002.nsf/afr/swaziland?Open>

Amnesty International 2004 Report:  
[www.amnesty.org/report2005/sw-summary-eng](http://www.amnesty.org/report2005/sw-summary-eng)  
 Freedom House 2004 Report:  
[www.freedomhouse.org/research/freeworld/2004/countryratings/swaziland.htm](http://www.freedomhouse.org/research/freeworld/2004/countryratings/swaziland.htm)  
 Human Rights Internet, 2001:

[www.hri.ca/doccentre/docs/swaziland01.shtml](http://www.hri.ca/doccentre/docs/swaziland01.shtml)

### **HIV/AIDS awareness**

To raise awareness of HIV/AIDS, staff in some libraries have been trained as peer educators and counsellors in order to organise HIV/AIDS intervention programmes. Workplace education programmes have also been designed for the staff. Special efforts to provide information on HIV/AIDS to members of the community unable to read are in the hands of peer educators who have been identified in rural communities.

### **Women and freedom of access to information**

Libraries play an active role in the promotion of women's literacy by providing non-book materials such as posters, videos, and audiotapes. They also provide pamphlets on health issues and agricultural programmes, as well as information for women on how to protect themselves in abusive situations.

### **IFLA Internet Manifesto**

In 2003 there existed some uncertainty as to the adoption of the Internet Manifesto. However, in 2005 it is clearly indicated that the Manifesto has not been adopted but that the library association intends to do so in the next two years.

### **IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom**

In 2003, there were no indications regarding the adoption of the Glasgow Declaration. In 2005 it is reported that the Declaration has not been adopted but intentions are to do so in the next two years.

## Ethics

In 2003 a draft code of ethics was discussed and it was hoped that the code would be adopted in the next two years. The Swaziland library community fol-

lowed up on its intentions, and a code of ethics was adopted in June 2004. The implementation process is currently being run by the Heads of Departments of the National Library Service.

### Libraries and Internet Access

The following section compares data and answers from 2005 with the 2003 IFLA/FAIFE World Report and adds context from respondent's estimates regarding numbers of public and research libraries.

Population Online: 2.6% (2003: 1.25%)

Estimated number of public libraries\*: 15

Average number of people served by each public library service point: 88,000

Public libraries offering Internet access: 21-40% (2003: 21-40%)

Estimated number of research libraries\*\*: 15

Research libraries offering Internet access: 21-40% (2003: 21-40%)

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: No (2003: Yes, to a certain degree motivated by a need to protect national culture)

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: No (2003: Yes, to a certain degree)

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: No (2003: No)

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access in the library system in the last two years: Yes

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities

### Main Indicators

Country Name: Swaziland

Population: 1,320,000

Main Language: English (official, government business conducted in English), siSwati (official)

Literacy: 81.6% (2003)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition





**Responding institution: Dokumentation, Information, Kultur (DIK)**

Sweden responded to the World Report in 2001 and 2003. This country report refers to 1091 public library service points and 198 research libraries. The response this year suggests that there is debate occurring over bias in the content of Sweden's libraries - the authors of a report on this issue believe that libraries are choosing books with a socialist perspective over a conservative perspective. Further details of this incident, and another, can be found below.

Overall Internet penetration has increased in Sweden from 67.82% in 2003 to 73.6% this year. This developed Internet infrastructure is reflected in the levels of access provided by libraries - 81-100% of public and research libraries offer the Internet to their users. The remainder of the answers regarding the Internet show Sweden to be in a similar situation to 2003 - filtering is not favoured, its use is not widespread, and access to the Internet is free in all libraries.

Regarding the 2005 World Report's special areas of focus, no anti-terror legislation has been passed that affects library users. Libraries have been involved in raising awareness of HIV/AIDS and have sought to provide information to community members unable to read. Swedish libraries have also promoted women's access to information, especially for immigrants recently arrived in the country.

A code of ethics for librarians has been adopted, and the Internet Manifesto has been adopted and promoted. This year there were no answers regarding the Glasgow Declaration but in 2003 it was indicated that the association had adopted it.

**User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

No anti-terror legislation has been passed in Sweden that would adversely affect the intellectual freedom of library users. The respondent did indicate that keeping user records harmed individuals' freedom of expression.

### **Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

There was an interesting debate in 2004 when a conservative think tank in Sweden's leading morning paper presented results from an investigation of content in Sweden's libraries. According to the investigation books with a radical/socialist perspective dominated in an undue way over books with a liberal/conservative perspective. This - it was argued by the authors - was a sign of impartiality lacking among librarians.

As for freedom of expression, the most interesting debate in Sweden has concerned the clash between freedom to publicly express religious convictions and the rights of sexual minorities. During a sermon a preacher attached homosexuality and homosexuals in a way that took the case to court.

### **HIV/AIDS awareness**

Swedish libraries have built media collections on HIV/AIDS and held exhibitions to raise awareness of the issue. They have also made material available on CDs and other equipment designed to facilitate information gathering among the disabled, those who cannot read, or those who have other dysfunctions.

### **Women and freedom of access to information**

All Swedish institutions (e.g. libraries) are requested by law to make plans to promote gender equality. Some libraries have developed special programmes directed towards immigrant women who are not used to public facilities.

### **IFLA Internet Manifesto**

The Internet Manifesto has been adopted in Sweden. The responding organisation (DIK) has worked with the Manifesto alongside government ministries responsible for information, education and culture.

### **IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom**

There were no answers to this question. In 2003, however, it was indicated that the association had adopted and promoted the Glasgow Declaration.

### **Ethics**

The library association in Sweden adopted a code of ethics in 1994. It has been promoted by arranging seminars and establishing a special group with the task of continuing promotion. The same group is also working on a revision of the code.

### Libraries and Internet Access

The following section compares data and answers from 2005 with the 2003 and (where possible) 2001 IFLA/FAIFE World Reports and adds context from respondent's estimates regarding numbers of public and research libraries.

Population Online: 73.6% (2003: 67.82%; 2001: 56.36%)

Estimated number of public libraries\*: 1091

Average number of people served by each public library service point: 8287

Public libraries offering Internet access: 81-100% (2003: 81-100%)

Estimated number of research libraries\*\*: 198

Research libraries offering Internet access: 81-100% (2003: 81-100%)

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: No (2003: No)

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: No (2003: No)

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: Yes, in all libraries (2003: Yes, in all libraries)

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access

in the library system in the last two years: No

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \*Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities

### Main Indicators

Country Name: Sweden

Population: 9,041,000

Main Language: Swedish, small Sami and Finnish-speaking minorities

Literacy: 99% (2000)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition







### **Responding institution: Association of Swiss Libraries and Librarians (BBS)**

This is Switzerland's second response to the World Report and it details activities in 150 public library service points and 140 research libraries. Based purely on the Swiss questionnaire response it would seem that intellectual freedom is currently in a good state in the country. No violations of intellectual freedom are reported, and no anti-terror legislation has been passed that might negatively impact on library users, although the respondent does warn this could change with the political situation.

Use of the Internet continues to grow in Switzerland with Internet penetration rising from 52.73% in 2003 to 64.7% in 2005. Access in public libraries has increased too, with 61-80% of public library service points now able to offer access to users. This access will be charged for however, unlike in the country's research libraries. Regarding filtering, the library association has shifted position, perhaps as a result of

experiences over the last two years of increased access. Whereas the association was not in favour of filtering in 2003 it now is in favour to a certain degree, on the grounds that children need to be protected and public morality safeguarded. As in 2003, actual use of the software remains widespread to a degree.

Regarding other areas of special focus, libraries in Switzerland have not been involved in specifically promoting HIV/AIDS awareness or women's access to information in any way.

There is a code of ethics for librarians in Switzerland, and both the Internet Manifesto and Glasgow Declaration have been adopted. The response contains no additional information on these topics.

### **User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

No anti-terror legislation has been passed in Switzerland that would adversely affect the intellectual freedom of library users. The respondent did indicate



that keeping user records harmed individuals’ freedom of expression and pointed out that the implications of future legislation depend on the evolution of the political environment.

**Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

The respondent stated that if any violations of intellectual freedom had occurred in Switzerland in the last two years their effects were not felt in libraries.

**HIV/AIDS awareness**

Swiss libraries have not been involved in any programmes to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS, although the respondent did state that information on this subject was held in the same way as all other subjects.

**Women and freedom of access to information**

Libraries in Switzerland have not been involved in initiatives designed to promote women’s literacy or access to information.

**IFLA Internet Manifesto**

The library association in Switzerland has adopted the Internet Manifesto, but there are no details about its implementation or promotion.

**IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom**

Likewise, the Glasgow Declaration has been adopted but no information is forthcoming regarding its promotion.

**Ethics**

The Association of Swiss Libraries and Librarians adopted a code of ethics in 2000.

**Main Indicators**

Country Name:	Switzerland
Population:	7,252,000
Main Language:	German (official) 63.7%, French (official) 19.2%, Italian (official) 7.6%, Romansch (official) 0.6%, other 8.9%
Literacy:	99% (1980)
Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition	



### Libraries and Internet Access

The following section compares data and answers from 2005 with the 2003 IFLA/FAIFE World Report and adds context from respondent's estimates regarding numbers of public and research libraries.

Population Online: 64.7% (2003: 52.73%)

Estimated number of public libraries\*: 150

Average number of people served by each public library service point: 48,347

Public libraries offering Internet access: 61-80% (2003: 41-60%)

Estimated number of research libraries\*\*: 140

Research libraries offering Internet access: 81-100% (2003: 81-100%)

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: Yes, to a certain degree to protect children and safeguard public morality (2003: No)

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: Yes, to a certain degree (2003: Yes, to a certain degree)

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: Yes, in research libraries only (2003: Yes, in research libraries only)

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access in the library system in the last two years: No

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities



### Responding institution: Not answered

This is Syria's first response to the World Report. The report offers a detailed breakdown of the types of library in the country - it covers 108 various public library service points and 1032 different research libraries. The overall situation regarding intellectual freedom is worrying however, and the respondent highlights the blocking of Internet material that is taking place in the country, as well as the problems caused by the United States regulations on the export of electronic resources to blacklisted countries. Third party sources supply further information regarding media censorship and email surveillance.

In Syria the overall Internet penetration rate is quite low at 3.2% but it is offering Internet access, free of charge, in 81-100% of its 1032 research libraries. 21-40% of public libraries also offer free Internet access. The library community is not in favour of filtering Internet access, and use of Internet filtering software is not widespread in the library system. Despite this,

the respondent does point out that the country's two ISPs (Internet Service Providers) are imposing filtering higher up in the network to prevent access to pornographic websites.

Regarding the two further special focus areas of the report, Syrian libraries have been involved in promoting HIV/AIDS awareness, and have extended these programmes to members of the community unable to read. They have also been involved in promoting women's literacy programs and access to information.

The Syrian library association does not have a code of ethics, nor does it intend to adopt one in the next two years. The Glasgow Declaration is also unadopted and it is not going to be adopted in the next two years. There is no clear answer regarding the status of the Internet Manifesto.

### User privacy and anti-terror legislation

The respondent indicates that while there is no anti-

terror legislation in Syria itself that affects libraries, the effects of US actions in the war against terror are being felt by information seekers. At issue here is effect of American export controls on Syrian access to electronic information resources. The United States Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) of the Treasury Department has imposed restrictions against trading with certain countries and this has led to problems such as those experienced by Syria. In Autumn 2003 OFAC issued an opinion that trade embargos against countries such as Iran, Cuba, Iraq, Libya, Syria and Sudan prohibit publishers from editing scientific and literary manuscripts by residents of those countries and restrict other academic and intellectual collaborations. The effects of this opinion were felt in the publishing of scholarly articles from these countries - academic journals, for example, were prohibited from substantive editing of a foreign manuscript without government permission. The same situation would have applied to literary manuscripts submitted to a US publisher, editorials from foreign authors to US newspapers and magazines, and translations and collaborations of various kinds. Following lawsuits against the department from publishers and Iranian Shirin Ebadi, a 2003 Nobel Peace Prize laureate, the restrictions were eased somewhat at the end of 2004 to allow US publishers to work with authors from countries under American economic sanctions as long as they are not government representatives. FAIFE continues to monitor the situation, especially as the Syrian response suggests that freedom of access to information in the country is still being affected.

#### Sources:

The Chronicle, October 2, 2003

<http://chronicle.com/free/2003/10/2003100201n.htm>  
New York Times, November 16, 2004:  
[www.nytimes.com/2004/11/16/opinion/16ebadi.html?ex=1101622413&ei=1&en=f24a61756ac99551](http://www.nytimes.com/2004/11/16/opinion/16ebadi.html?ex=1101622413&ei=1&en=f24a61756ac99551)  
Library Juice, November 5, 2004:  
[www.libr.org/Juice/issues/vol7/LJ\\_7.23.html](http://www.libr.org/Juice/issues/vol7/LJ_7.23.html)

#### **Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

The Syrian response indicates a problem which is discussed at greater length in Chapter 5 of the PhD dissertation sponsored by IFLA/FAIFE between 2001 and 2003 (see below). While Syrian libraries are not in favour of filtering Internet information, and report that the use of filtering software is not widespread in its country's libraries, it would appear that the situation is in some ways out of their hands. The two Internet Service Providers in the country, Syrian Telecommunication Establishment and Syrian Computer Society, are trying to prevent the accessing of pornographic websites. This technique is tried at a similar level in other countries in the Middle-east such as Saudi Arabia and Bahrain. Unfortunately, national network level filtering succumbs to the same problems that individual PC-based filtering does - it overblocks and underblocks online information. This means that while access to a large proportion of online pornography will be blocked, other information that users might need - websites on sexual education or health for example - will also remain out of reach of the user. The extent to which libraries are able to affect this 'upstream' filtering depends on the level of influence they carry at national information policy level and it is by no means sure that information policy makers will be ready to listen to librarians' arguments. This is especially true

in the Middle-east where this approach to filtering Internet information is more common.

Further information from third party sources also suggests that the Internet is under attack by government forces concerned about its ability to spread information. According to the International Press Institute's 2004 World Press Freedom Review, harassment and threats have been an effective way of silencing and intimidating providers of information, leading to self-censorship and imprecise reporting. Media censorship is common, and in March 2004 the Syrian information minister withdrew the permission to publish four newly launched newspapers, according to Reporters Without Borders. As reported by the questionnaire respondent, this censorship has also reached the Internet where authorities concentrate their blocking efforts on publications dealing directly with Syrian politics, Kurdish, pro-Israeli and pornographic sites. In March 2004 two Kurdish sites were made inaccessible by blocking their domain names. The freedom of expression is further violated by the e-mail surveillance, and users are forced to use the email service controlled by the Syrian Internet providers.

#### Sources:

Hamilton, S. (2004). 'To what extent can libraries ensure that access to Internet-accessible information resources remains free, equal and unhampered, on a global scale?' Copenhagen : IFLA/FAIFE  
Reporters Without Borders, 16 March 2005:  
[www.rsf.org/article.php3?id\\_article=12916](http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=12916)  
Reporters Without Borders, 2004:  
[www.rsf.org/article.php3?id\\_article=10767](http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=10767)

World Press Freedom Report, IPI (International Press Institute) 2004:

[www.freemedia.at/wpfr/Mena/syria.htm](http://www.freemedia.at/wpfr/Mena/syria.htm)

### HIV/AIDS awareness

Libraries in Syria have been involved in the distribution of educational health material relating to HIV/AIDS that has been prepared nationally or received through the WHO. In order to reach more people this material is distributed for free in Syrian communities and there are also lectures for those unable to read (and others) by special 'family physicians'.

### Women and freedom of access to information

Syrian libraries are involved in literacy programmes alongside organisations such as the Women's Federation, Adult Literacy Centres and the website of the Women of Syria ([www.nesasy.com](http://www.nesasy.com)). Promotion of women's access to information comes from activities with telecentres, co-operation with the Ministry of Education and the Fund for Integrated Rural Development of Syria (FIRDOS), with the Reefnet (rural net) project and especially through mobile library programs and mobile information centres.

### IFLA Internet Manifesto

The response gave no indication regarding the status of the Internet Manifesto, but it did state that Syria promotes freedom of access to information, the Internet and libraries and information services.

**IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom**

The library community in Syria has not adopted the Glasgow Declaration, and does not intend to do so in the next two years.

**Ethics**

The Syrian library association does not have a code of ethics, and does not intend to adopt one in the next two years.

**Main Indicators**

Country Name:	Syria
Population:	19,043,000
Main Language:	Arabic (official); Kurdish, Armenian, Aramaic, Circassian widely understood; French, English somewhat understood
Literacy:	76.9% (2003)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition



## Libraries and Internet Access

This is Syria's first contribution to the World Report series.

Population Online: 3.2%

Estimated number of public libraries\*: 108 (16 culture centres - 3 in Damascus and 1 in each of Syria's cities. The national library also helps people to access the Internet and electronic resources. There are 4 telecentres and 87 Syrian youth clubs for sciences and information)

Average number of people served by each public library service point: 176,324

Public libraries offering Internet access: 21-40%

Estimated number of research libraries\*\*: 1032 (322 libraries of universities and higher institutes, 700 libraries of schools in the Syrian Education and Information Network and 10 institutional libraries including hospital libraries)

Research libraries offering Internet access: 81-100%

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: No

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: No

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: Yes, in all libraries

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access in the library system in the last two years: N/A

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities



### Responding institution: Tanzania Library Association

This is Tanzania's first contribution to the World Report. The response relates to the country's estimated 50 public library service points and 30 research libraries. While the respondent has reported no violations of intellectual freedom in the country, it does appear that anti-terror legislation has been passed in Tanzania that could have implications on library use. Third party sources also point to problems with freedom of expression in the country and it would appear that the situation facing intellectual freedom in Tanzania is worrying.

Internet penetration in Tanzania is extremely low at 0.7% and this is reflected in the poor levels of Internet access in the country's libraries - less than 20% of public and research libraries offer an Internet service to their users. However, where access can be found it is free. While the library association is to a degree in

favour of filtering Internet access, the use of filtering software is not widespread in libraries that are online. The state or library authorities have not been able to make any extra funds available for increasing Internet access in the last two years.

Regarding other focus areas, libraries in Tanzania are not involved in programmes that raise awareness of HIV/AIDS and have made no efforts to provide HIV/AIDS information to members of the community unable to read. Libraries are not involved in programmes focusing on the promotion of women's literacy, and do not specifically promote women's access to information.

The Tanzania Library Association has recently adopted a code of ethics but cannot as yet report on implementation activities. The library association has not adopted the IFLA Internet Manifesto or the Glasgow Declaration but intends to do so in the next two years.



**User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

The Tanzania Library Association has responded that anti-terror legislation that would adversely affect library users' intellectual freedom has been passed but the effects on libraries have not been further described. The association thinks it likely that the legislation would impact on user privacy. Also, the keeping of user records is considered to affect the freedom of expression of the individual library Internet user.

**Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

No incidents or violations that would adversely affect freedom of access to information and freedom of expression are reported. However, in its annual report 2005, Amnesty International expresses concern over the state of freedom of association and freedom of expression in Tanzania. Activities of the media, non-governmental organisations and opposition are restricted.

Source:

Amnesty International 2005 Report:  
[www.amnesty.org/report2005/tza-summary-eng](http://www.amnesty.org/report2005/tza-summary-eng)

**HIV/AIDS awareness**

Libraries have not been involved in any programmes to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS, and no

efforts have been made to provide information on the subject to members of the community unable to read.

**Women and freedom of access to information**

Neither have libraries undertaken programmes focusing on the promotion of women's literacy or women's access to information on social issues, the economy, education, health or family planning.

**IFLA Internet Manifesto**

The Tanzania Library Association has not adopted the Internet Manifesto but intends to do so in the next two years.

**IFLA Glasgow Declaration On Libraries, Information Services And Intellectual Freedom**

The Tanzania Library Association has not adopted the Glasgow Declaration either but intends to do so in the next two years.

**Ethics**

The Tanzania Library Association has adopted a code of ethics but the year of adoption is not stated and no indications are given as to how it will be implemented in the next two years.

### Libraries and Internet Access

This is Tanzania's first contribution to the World Report Series.

Population Online:	0.7%
Estimated number of public libraries*:	50
Average number of people served by each public library service point:	766,580
Public libraries offering Internet access:	Less than 20%
Estimated number of research libraries**:	30
Research libraries offering Internet access:	Less than 20%
Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals:	Yes, to a certain degree in order to protect children, safeguard religious values and safeguard public morality
Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries:	No
Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers:	Yes, in all libraries
Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access in the library system in the last two years:	No

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities

### Main Indicators

Country Name:	Tanzania
Population:	38,329,000
Main Language:	Kiswahili or Swahili (official), Kiunguja (name for Swahili in Zanzibar), English (official, primary language of commerce, administration, and higher education), Arabic (widely spoken in Zanzibar), many local languages
Literacy:	78.2% (2003)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition





**Responding institution: University of the West Indies, St Augustine, Main Library**

Trinidad and Tobago contributed to the World Report for the first time in 2003. The questionnaire response relates to the 23 public library service points (20 in Trinidad and 3 in Tobago) and 132 research libraries (32 Tertiary and 100 Secondary) in the country. No ant-terror legislation has yet been passed in the country but an Anti-Terrorism Bill is currently before the Senate, as further explained below. While in 2003, it was indicated, but not detailed, that violations of intellectual freedom took place no violations are reported this year.

While the main responding institution to the 2005 World Report remains the same as in 2003, it should be noted that some of the information provided in the questionnaire came from the National Library and Information System Authority (NALIS). This may explain some of the changes in relation to the extent of Internet access in Trinidad and Tobago's libraries.

Internet penetration in Trinidad and Tobago has only slightly increased since 2003 but, perhaps as a result of extra funding in the last two years, 81-100% of public libraries are now able to offer free Internet access to users - a great increase from the previous world report. In contrast, according to the 2005 questionnaire, the extent of access provided by research libraries has fallen - 41-60% of research libraries provide the Internet compared to 61-80-% as indicated in the 2003 report (access remains free however). The 2003 report also indicated that libraries were experiencing problems with pornographic websites and perhaps as a result the use of filtering software is now widespread. The library association is to a degree in favour of this situation, citing a need to protect children from harmful materials and safeguard public morality.

Regarding other focus areas, libraries in Trinidad and Tobago are actively involved in activities to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS, and likewise in the promotion of women's literacy, as will be detailed below.

The library association has not adopted a code of ethics or the Glasgow Declaration. There exists some uncertainty of the status of the IFLA Internet Manifesto.

### **User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

No anti-terror legislation that would adversely affect library users' intellectual freedom has been passed in Trinidad and Tobago but an Anti-Terrorism Bill is currently before the Senate of the Parliament. The respondent does not think the Bill would impact on user privacy as it contains no clauses likely to refer to libraries and to user records. The respondent does not think that the keeping of user records affects the freedom of expression of the individual library Internet user.

### **Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

In the 2003 response it was indicated that there had been examples of library users being denied access to information but no further details of these incidents were explained. This year, no incidents that adversely affect freedom of access to information and freedom of expression have occurred in Trinidad and Tobago in the last two years. No information resources that might further explain the situation facing freedom of access to information have been listed.

### **HIV/AIDS awareness**

Libraries in Trinidad and Tobago are actively involved in programmes to raise awareness of HIV/

AIDS, and activities include informational displays on the occasion of World AIDS Day. It is also proposed to set up a Community Information Centre and its activities will include information on social issues such as HIV/AIDS. In April 2003, the University of the West Indies Medical Science Library at Mt. Hope hosted a HIV/AIDS workshop focusing on the reduction of the stigma attached to the disease, and later that year the library sat up a display at the Trinidad Hilton. Libraries have not made efforts to provide HIV/AIDS information to members of the community unable to read.

### **Women and freedom of access to information**

Libraries do have special programmes focusing on the promotion of women's literacy. Weekly Adult Literacy classes are held at many public libraries, and library staff also visit health centres to give lectures about reading development and childcare to mothers and pregnant women. Libraries do also specifically promote women's access to information. These activities primarily take place on commemorative days such as International Women's Day and International Day Against Violence Against Women.

### **IFLA Internet Manifesto**

There exists some uncertainty as to whether or not the IFLA Internet Manifesto has been adopted. In 2003, it was indicated that adoption had taken place whereas this year, it is stated that the library association intends to adopt the Manifesto in the next two years. At the time of writing it was not possible to clarify this situation.

**IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom**

The Glasgow Declaration has not been adopted. There seems, however, to be a change of attitude regarding the intentions to adopt it as this year the respondent indicates that the Declaration will be adopted in the next two years.

**Ethics**

In 2003, it was reported that the library association intended to adopt a code of ethics in the next two years. The response for this year indicates that a code has not been adopted but intentions are still to adopt one in the next two years.

**Main Indicators**

Country Name:	Trinidad and Tobago
Population:	1,305,000
Main Language:	English (official), Hindi, French, Spanish, Chinese
Literacy:	98.6% (2003)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition



### Libraries and Internet Access

The following section compares data and answers from 2005 with the 2003 IFLA/FAIFE World Report and adds context from respondent's estimates regarding numbers of public and research libraries.

Population Online: 10.6% (2003: 10.31%)

Estimated number of public libraries\*: 23 (20 in Trinidad and 3 in Tobago)

Average number of people served by each public library service point: 56,739

Public libraries offering Internet access: 81-100% (2003: Less than 20%)

Estimated number of research libraries\*\*: 132 (32 tertiary education and 100 secondary education)

Research libraries offering Internet access: 41-60% (2003: 61-80%)

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: Yes, to a certain degree in order to protect children from harmful materials and safeguard public morality (2003: Yes, to a certain degree to stop viewing of pornography)

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: Yes (2003: No)

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: Yes, in all libraries (2003: Yes, in all libraries)

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access in the library system in the last two years: Yes

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities



### Responding institution: The Open Society Institute (OSI)

Intellectual freedom in Turkmenistan is in a great danger following the recent closure of libraries in the country ordered by the President. This worrying turn of events, recounted in more detail in the 'Reported Incidents' section below, has made it difficult for members of the library community to convey information out of the country. The institution that responded to our questionnaire is the Open Society Institute, a private foundation that advocates democratic governance, human rights, and economic, legal, and social reform. It has a long-standing interest in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

Overall Internet penetration in Turkmenistan is very low at less than 1% of the population. According to Reporters without Borders, citizens are not allowed to access the Internet from home and there are no cybercafes. For the few individuals that are allowed

access, the Internet is heavily censored. Regarding the Internet in the country's libraries, the respondent indicated that less than 20% of public and research libraries provide Internet access. State funds have not been forthcoming in the past two years to change this situation. Where Internet access is found it is free but very likely to be filtered, for reasons of public morality but also as part of a process of political indoctrination favourable to the ruling authorities.

Regarding the issues of special focus, anti-terror legislation is not currently affecting libraries in Turkmenistan. Libraries are not providing programmes or materials that raise awareness of HIV/AIDS and, aside from a few NGO-provided reading rooms for women, there are no programmes being run by libraries for the promotion of women's literacy.

The respondent was unable to say what plans the library community had regarding the Internet Manifesto, the Glasgow Declaration or codes of ethics; all

that was indicated was that none of these initiatives were currently adopted.

### **User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

There were no reports of any anti-terror legislation that is affecting libraries or their users. The respondent did believe that keeping user records affects the freedom of expression of library users.

### **Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

In March 2005, Turkmenistan's president-for-life, Saparmurat Niyazov, commented at a government meeting that almost all the libraries in the country should be closed "because no one here reads". Since the 1990s, however, the government has been destroying books, particularly targeting materials in languages other than Turkmen, with books in Russian, Uzbek, and Kazakh being the first target. The government has also banned books that were suspected of being incompatible with state ideology. According to witnesses, books are burned, although some also end up on the black market. Newspapers and journals from abroad are banned; one author was imprisoned for having brought in copies of his own book. At the beginning of May the government decided not to extend the licenses of foreign carriers like UPS and FedEx, which effectively eliminates most means of importing books.

The cumulative result of actions like this is that libraries in Turkmenistan were already virtually empty even before the president's March statement.

Bookstores offer almost exclusively state statistics and the writings of the president, principally the two-volume "Ruhnama" (Book of the Soul). Volume 1 was published in 2000. Schoolrooms are almost devoid of textbooks or indeed books of any kind other than the "Ruhnama", which is compulsory reading.

In light of these disturbing events FAIFE issued a press release describing the situation in April 2005 ([www.ifla.org/V/press/pr29-04-2005.htm](http://www.ifla.org/V/press/pr29-04-2005.htm)). The FAIFE Office is working together with the Open Society Institute and the American Library Association on this issue and continues to monitor the situation

#### **Sources:**

Bulletins from the independent, indigenous watchdog group The Turkmenistan Initiative for Human Rights. Their full archive is available on the website of the Open Society Institute's Turkmenistan Project: [www.eurasianet.org/turkmenistan/project/index.php?page=resource/hrights/tuhi&lang=eng](http://www.eurasianet.org/turkmenistan/project/index.php?page=resource/hrights/tuhi&lang=eng) (see particularly from May 20, 2005; April 11, 2005; March 31, 2005; March 4, 2005)  
Reporters Without Borders, 2004:  
[www.rsf.org/article.php3?id\\_article=10684&Valider=OK](http://www.rsf.org/article.php3?id_article=10684&Valider=OK)

### **HIV/AIDS awareness**

Libraries in Turkmenistan are not providing programmes that promote HIV/AIDS awareness.



### Women and freedom of access to information

There are small public reading rooms that are part of some non-governmental organisations in Turkmenistan that focus on information related to women, but they are not state run and are more “reading rooms than libraries”. Apart from these, there are no public library facilities that focus on the promotion of women’s literacy or women’s access to information.

### IFLA Internet Manifesto

The Internet Manifesto has not been adopted and it was not indicated if it would be adopted in the next two years.

### IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom

The Glasgow Declaration has not been adopted and it was not indicated if it would be adopted in the next two years.

### Ethics

A code of ethics has not been adopted and it was not indicated if one would be adopted in the next two years.

#### Main Indicators

Country Name:	Turkmenistan
Population:	4,833,000
Main Language:	Turkmen 72%, Russian 12%, Uzbek 9%, other 7%
Literacy:	98% (1989)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition



### Libraries and Internet Access

This is Turkmenistan's first contribution to the World Report Series.

Population Online: 0.2%

Estimated number of public libraries\*: N/A

Average number of people served by each public library service point: N/A

Public libraries offering Internet access: Less than 20%

Estimated number of research libraries\*\*: N/A

Research libraries offering Internet access: Less than 20%

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: Yes, in order to safeguard public morality. Internet filtering is also used to aid political indoctrination

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: Yes

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: Yes, in all libraries

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access

in the library system in the last two years: No

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\* \* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities



### **Responding institution: Uganda Library Association**

This is Uganda's second contribution to the World Report. This response relates to the estimated 31 public library service points in the country, the 24 research and tertiary level libraries and the school libraries that are found in about 30% of Uganda's 2056 secondary schools.

Based on the questionnaire response, it would appear that there are currently a number of issues that stand to affect intellectual freedom in Uganda. As detailed further below, an anti-terrorism act was passed in 2002 that has caused concern to the Uganda Library Association due to clauses that potentially give law enforcement agencies the right to access library user records. Aside from anti-terror legislation, it also would appear that ruling authorities are keen to restrict the accessing of pornographic information on the Internet, a difficult area to legislate against

that could end up stifling access to legitimate online information resources.

There is a great difference between figures reporting overall Internet penetration in Uganda in 2003 and in 2005. A revision of figures now puts the number of Internet users in the country at 125,000 (Source: Internet World Stats) and the overall penetration at 0.4% - down from 2.42% at the time of the last World Report. Regardless of the reasons for this, access levels in the country's research sector have increased and now 61-80% of research libraries offer Internet facilities to users. Less than 20% of the public libraries offer access though, the same amount as in 2003. The library association's position on filtering also remains the same - it is not in favour of filtering software, nor is its use widespread. Finally, despite extra funding in the past two years, it still costs to access the Internet in all libraries.

Regarding other areas of special focus, libraries in Uganda are actively involved in programmes that

raise awareness of HIV/AIDS and members of the community unable to read are also able to take advantage of information offered. Libraries are likewise involved in programmes focusing on the promotion of women's literacy, and specifically promote women's access to social information, the economy, education, health and family planning.

The Uganda Library Association has not adopted a code of ethics but intends to do so in the next two years - the same intentions as reported in 2003. The library association has, however, adopted the IFLA Internet Manifesto as well as the Glasgow Declaration.

### **User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

Parliament passed the Anti-Terrorism Act in 2002. The Act does not specifically mention libraries or bookshops. It does, however, empower law enforcement officers through a court order to search for materials on premises specified in an application. By this provision, the investigation officer has the discretion to search a library or user records if this is considered of substantial value to the investigation. There are other provisions in the law which, depending on interpretation, would affect library users' intellectual freedom. Any person who establishes, publishes or disseminates materials that promote terrorism is considered to have committed an offence. It is possible that under this provision, a library that links to suspect materials on the Internet or distributes such materials on its listservers would be liable to prosecution under the law. As to date, there have been no cases involving libraries in Uganda. The fact remains however, that since the

legislation is in place and open-ended the association is very wary of its future implications.

The respondent indicated that the keeping of user records is not considered to affect the freedom of expression of the individual Internet library user.

### **Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

No major incidents have occurred in Uganda that would adversely affect freedom of access to information and freedom of expression in libraries. However, there have been calls on the Ministry of Information and the Parliament of Uganda to pass laws that would make it illegal for any person or organisation to disseminate pornographic information. A demonstration against pornography led by the Vice-Chancellor of Makerere University targeted not only tabloids but the Internet as well. Regardless of the disagreements on what constitutes pornography, this was a pointer that the free rein that the Internet enjoys could as well come under strict restrictions on account of morality and religious bias. On a positive note, the Parliament of Uganda enacted the Access to Information Act 2005 into law. It is hoped that the Act will positively enhance freedom of access to information.

Information that further explains the situation facing freedom of access to information:

[www.monitor.co.ug/archives/2005main/mar/news/0315/news03156.php](http://www.monitor.co.ug/archives/2005main/mar/news/0315/news03156.php)

[www.monitor.co.ug/archives/2005main/apr/news/0414/news04145.php](http://www.monitor.co.ug/archives/2005main/apr/news/0414/news04145.php)

### **HIV/AIDS awareness**

Libraries in Uganda have been involved in programmes to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS. They document information resources and provide researchers and students with unlimited access to CD-ROMs, books, reports, information brochures, and Internet online journals. Libraries have also held thematic exhibitions on HIV/AIDS on special national and international days and events. Libraries also provide HIV/AIDS information to members of the community unable to read. Some libraries such as Mbale and Nakaseke Public Libraries have collections of audiovisual materials which they screen to communities on a regular basis. Others provide a venue for community health workers to address communities on HIV/AIDS issues.

### **Women and freedom of access to information**

Libraries are likewise involved in special programmes focusing on the promotion of women's literacy. Departmental libraries, such as those of the Ministry of Gender, and some public libraries have collections of publications that highlight women's issues. In addition, they have stocks of primers and follow-up readers that are used in functional adult literacy classes which are dominated by women. Regarding the promotion of women's access to information, the Department of Women and Gender Studies at Makerere University reports that the departmental library carries out gender disaggregated research, documents the findings and publishes the results to give a better picture of the situation.

### **IFLA Internet Manifesto**

The Uganda Library Association has adopted the Internet Manifesto. With regards to its implementation, libraries are beginning to put in place an Internet infrastructure to facilitate public access to digital information. Secondly, library rules on the usage of Internet facilities are not restrictive on the kind of content that users seek to access on a library computer. Thirdly, libraries are not using filters to deny access to certain content. And finally, some libraries (for example the National Library of Uganda) are developing local content for the Internet as a local contribution to global digital information.

### **IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom**

The Glasgow Declaration has also been adopted by the Uganda Library Association. No specific activities of its implementation are listed but in 2003 it was reported that the Declaration had been debated on the association's listserv.

### **Ethics**

The Uganda Library Association has not adopted a code of ethics but it intends to do so in the next two years.

### Libraries and Internet Access

The following section compares data and answers from 2005 with the 2003 IFLA/FAIFE World Report and adds context from respondent's estimates regarding numbers of public and research libraries.

Population Online: 0.4% (2003: 2.42% (see summary above))

Estimated number of public libraries\*: 31

Average number of people served by each public library service point: 929,548

Public libraries offering Internet access: Less than 20% (2003: Less than 20%)

Estimated number of research libraries\*\*: 24 university and tertiary level libraries. About 30% of Uganda's 2056 secondary schools have a library

Research libraries offering Internet access: 61-80% (2003: 21-40%)

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: No (2003: No)

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: No (2003: No)

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: No (2003: No)

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access

in the library system in the last two years: Yes

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities

### Main Indicators

Country Name: Uganda

Population: 28,816,000

Main Language: English (official national language), Ganda or Luganda (most widely used of the Niger-Congo languages), other Niger-Congo languages, Nilo-Saharan languages, Swahili, Arabic

Literacy: 78.2% (2003)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition





### **Responding institution: Ukrainian Library Association**

Ukraine responded to the World Report in 2001 and 2003. The 2005 response refers to the country's estimated 18,664 public library service points and 22,200 research libraries. The report comes against the backdrop of the disputed presidential elections of late 2004, and the respondent makes reference to how libraries were caught up in this situation. As part of the institutions of the state it appears libraries in the Ukraine were forced into disseminating information about the incumbent president at the expense of his rival. Following the re-run of the election in 2005 and the swearing in of a new president it is to be hoped that libraries are now able to provide information for their users in an atmosphere free of political interference.

While Internet penetration has increased from 1.55% in 2003 to 6% in 2005, the amount of public and research libraries offering Internet access is reported as

being the same as at the time of the last World Report - less than 20%. Access in all libraries is free and most likely unfiltered too - the library association is not in favour of filtering and use of the software is not widespread. The respondent notes that there have been extra funds forthcoming for library Internet use in the past two years but this needs clarification - while Internet access in Ukrainian libraries is free of charge this is not because the state covers the costs of the Internet access. Instead, Internet centres in public libraries were opened with the help of international donors.

Regarding the areas of special focus, libraries in Ukraine have not been affected by any anti-terror legislation recently passed. Libraries in the country have been involved in promoting HIV/AIDS awareness, although programmes are only just beginning. Libraries have not yet been undertaken initiatives to promote women's access to information in any way.

The Internet Manifesto has been adopted and is prov-

ing to be an important document for Ukrainian librarians to use as they lobby the government to include libraries in national Internet policy. The association also has a code of ethics, but it has not yet adopted the Glasgow Declaration.

### **User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

No anti-terror legislation has been passed in Ukraine that would adversely affect the intellectual freedom of library users. The respondent did indicate that keeping user records harmed an individual's freedom of expression.

### **Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

During the presidential election in 2004 there was a lack of information available about opposition candidates. Authorities did not recommend that libraries subscribe to opposition newspapers or give these newspapers to users. Library directors were forced to give information only on the government candidate.

### **HIV/AIDS awareness**

Libraries in Ukraine have been involved in programmes to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS. They have just started in this task by providing bibliographies and webliographies on the issue.

### **Women and freedom of access to information**

Libraries in Ukraine have not been involved in initiatives designed to promote women's literacy or access to information.

### **IFLA Internet Manifesto**

The Ukrainian Library Association has adopted the Internet Manifesto and translated it into Ukrainian. It is used when libraries open Internet centres and create an Internet use policy. The library association uses it for lobbying for the national Internet access policy, hoping to make sure that libraries are included in the policy as an important public Internet access point.

### **IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom**

The Glasgow Declaration has not been adopted but the library association intends to adopt it in the next two years.

### **Ethics**

The library association in Ukraine adopted a code of ethics in 1996 and librarians do their best to incorporate the main issues of the code into their everyday work.



Libraries and Internet Access

The following section compares data and answers from 2005 with the 2003 and (where possible) 2001 IFLA/FAIFE World Reports and adds context from respondent's estimates regarding numbers of public and research libraries.

Population Online:	6% (2003: 1.55%; 2001: 0.41%)
Estimated number of public libraries*:	18,664
Average number of people served by each public library service point:	2490
Public libraries offering Internet access:	Less than 20% (2003: Less than 20%)
Estimated number of research libraries**:	22,200
Research libraries offering Internet access:	Less than 20% (2003: Less than 20%)
Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals:	No (2003: No)
Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries:	No (2003: No)
Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers:	Yes, in all libraries (2003: Yes, in all libraries)
Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access in the library system in the last two years:	Yes

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \*Public library service points, including branch libraries  
\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities

Main Indicators

Country Name:	Ukraine
Population:	46,481,000
Main Language:	Ukrainian (official) 67%, Russian 24%; small Romanian, Polish, and Hungarian-speaking minorities
Literacy:	99.7% (2003)
Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition	





**Responding institution: Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP)**

The United Kingdom contributed to the 2001 World Report. A response was submitted in 2003 but unfortunately it arrived too late to be published in the World Report that year. This year's response refers to 4624 public library service points and 860 libraries in universities and higher education institutions.

The effects of anti-terror legislation are being felt in the UK, but libraries do not appear to be directly affected - at this point. With regards to intellectual freedom violations, the seizure of the Indymedia servers shows that it is possible for law enforcement to move swiftly, and with little oversight, to stop the dissemination of information on the Internet, even if it is only for a time. While daily work in libraries might remain unaffected by such incidents, the wider repercussions for freedom of access to information on the Internet are worrying.

Overall Internet penetration in the United Kingdom is high at 59%. 81-100% of public and research libraries are providing Internet access to their users, although it appears that this access is charged for, at least in some institutions (in 2003 it was reported that access in all public libraries was free). Filtering is an issue, as detailed below, and CILIP is yet to take a definite position on it. In the meantime the use of filtering software appears to be widespread in the country's libraries, in order to protect children and safeguard public morality. This is a change from 2003, where use of the software was reported as being not widespread.

Regarding the other areas of special focus, libraries in the UK have been quite involved in raising awareness of HIV/AIDS, providing translations of relevant materials into ethnic languages and going as far as partnerships with health libraries in developing countries in order to lend support. Women's issues are also being addressed by libraries, with women's reading groups being set up and exhibitions being

held during International Women's Week to raise awareness of women's access to information.

Both the Internet Manifesto and the Glasgow Declaration have been adopted in the UK, and the initiatives appear to be implemented according to local specifications. A code of ethics has been recently adopted in 2004 as well.

### **User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

The Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001 (ATCSA) was adopted after the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks. While the UK has seen much media coverage of this piece of anti-terror legislation in the past two years, it has mostly been concerned the detention of suspected terrorists and not the possible effects of legislation on intellectual freedom. The 2005 Amnesty International report mentions no incidents that relate to freedom of access to information, and it would appear that there have been no reports of legislation having any direct effects on libraries.

Source:

Amnesty International Annual Report 2005:  
<http://web.amnesty.org/report2005/gbr-summary-eng>

### **Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

This incident is mentioned in the United Kingdom country report because in October 2004 two Internet servers were seized by law enforcement agencies in England. Its implications, however, are felt on a wider basis as the free flow of information on the

Internet - and access to it - was disrupted. The following information, taken from a statement by the Electronic Frontier Foundation, provides some background regarding what happened: "On Thursday, October 7, 2004, more than 20 Independent Media Center (IMC) websites and other Internet services were taken offline pursuant to a secret government order. Two Internet servers were seized from a facility in England that provided space to more than 20 Independent Media Centers in the United States and around the world, offering independent journalists a soapbox upon which to speak in a public forum. Independent Media Centers are autonomous portions of Indymedia, a global collective of independent media organizations and thousands of journalists offering grassroots, non-corporate coverage of news events. IMCs publish information often missed by mainstream media organizations, and offer unique perspectives on world events. The IMC content is widely read, with the two servers transmitting over 3.2 terabytes of information a month, serving over 18 million page views a month."

The situation regarding who was responsible for the seizure of the servers remains somewhat murky, even though the servers were returned a week later. The best guess is that the seizure was provoked by a posting that originated on IndyMedia's Swiss site, and that the seizure request therefore originated with Swiss police. The seizure, however, was carried out in London and directed by US law enforcement. More information regarding the details of the seizure can be found at the URLs below, but such a seizure appears unprecedented and worrying for providers of Internet-accessible information - especially information provided by less mainstream outlets. Seizing entire servers because of a claim regarding some pieces of information on them can be

regarded as a very heavy-handed way of dealing with a situation, and with no explanation as yet forthcoming this is an issue to stay up to date with.

Sources:

Indymedia server seizures (Electronic Frontier Foundation):

[www.eff.org/Censorship/Indymedia/](http://www.eff.org/Censorship/Indymedia/)

Indymedia gets its servers back (Wired, October 14, 2004):

[www.wired.com/news/technology/0,1282,65338,00.html](http://www.wired.com/news/technology/0,1282,65338,00.html)

### **HIV/AIDS awareness**

Libraries in the UK have been involved in programmes to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS. Many libraries undertake awareness raising exercises on World Aids Day through posters, leaflets and book displays. Some librarians are increasingly getting involved in library partnerships with health libraries in developing countries for educational and support purposes. For those members of the community unable to read English, materials have been translated into ethnic languages usually through libraries in health promotion agencies. There seems to be a gap in materials for users with special needs such as visual and hearing impediments.

### **Women and freedom of access to information**

There have been special programmes in the UK's libraries that focus on women's literacy. Hounslow and

Enfield libraries organised women's reading groups in different languages (e.g. a Bengali women's reading group in Enfield, and Urdu reading group in Hounslow). There have also been women only Internet sessions in Hounslow which were very popular. Regarding women's access to information on topics such as healthcare or education, some libraries have held relevant events during International Women's Week. Hounslow library, for example, had an exhibition on related topics but many other libraries celebrate this week in a similar way.

### **IFLA Internet Manifesto**

The Internet Manifesto has been adopted but it will be up to each library to decide how to implement the Manifesto and if they wish to do so.

### **IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom**

The Glasgow Declaration has also been adopted. Most UK libraries had already incorporated key elements of the Declaration in their professional practices and routines when the Declaration was made.

### **Ethics**

CILIP adopted a code of ethics in 2004. The code is aimed at the individual rather than the practitioner. Adoption has been so recent that no research or impact studies have been undertaken at this point.

## Libraries and Internet Access

CILIP submitted a response to the 2003 World Report but unfortunately it arrived too late to be published. The following section compares data and answers from 2005 with CILIP's 2003 response (and the 2001 World Report response regarding population online) and adds context from respondent's estimates regarding numbers of public and research libraries.

Population Online: 69% (2003: N/A; 2001: 33.58%)

Estimated number of public libraries\*: 4624

Average number of people served by each public library service point: 12,904

Public libraries offering Internet access: 81-100% (2003: 81-100%)

Estimated number of research libraries\*\*: 860 (this is universities and higher education institutions, not further education colleges as research does not tend to take place there)

Research libraries offering Internet access: 81-100% (2003: 81-100%)

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: CILIP is not yet decided on its position regarding Internet filtering. A national policy is under consideration but there is a wide spectrum of opinion in the UK library profession. (2003: No)

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: Yes, motivated by a desire to protect children and safeguard public morality. (2003: No)

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: No (2003: Yes, in public libraries)

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access in the library system in the last two years: No

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities

## Main Indicators

Country Name: United Kingdom

Population: 59,668,000

Main Language: English, Welsh (about 26% of the population of Wales), Scottish form of Gaelic (about 60,000 in Scotland)

Literacy: 99% (2000)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition





### **Responding institution: American Library Association (ALA)**

The United States responded to the World Report in 2001 and 2003, making this their third contribution. This year's response is referring to the 16,421 public library service points in the country, and 90,000 research libraries. As pointed out in Marc Lampson's paper, libraries in the United States have been greatly affected by the fallout of the terrorist attacks of September 11th, 2001 and, as the questionnaire response shows below, the environment for freedom of access to information in the country remains very unsteady.

Internet penetration in the US has continued to rise since the 2003 World Report and now stands at 67.4%. Public and research libraries in the US provide comprehensive levels of Internet access - 81-100% of service points are offering the Internet to library users free of charge. This is the same situation as in 2003 and all other Internet-related answers in 2005

are the same as well. The library association is still not in favour of filtering software but its use is still widespread to a degree in the country's libraries. The Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), which gives libraries access to federal IT-related funds only if they filter Internet access, undoubtedly contributes to this situation.

Regarding HIV/AIDS awareness and women's access to information, the US response indicated that libraries in the country were working in these areas, even if local community needs decide exactly what programmes libraries pursue.

The ALA has a code of ethics that dates back in its original form to 1939. It has also adopted the Internet Manifesto and Glasgow Declaration, and has made efforts to implement these initiatives into daily library work.

### **User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

The USA PATRIOT Act, passed in October 2001 gives the federal government significantly more authority to access library records. For further details about the effects of this legislation, please see Marc Lampson's paper at the beginning of this report. The American Library Association (ALA) believes that user privacy is very much at risk from future anti-terror legislation and that the keeping of user records can impact on the freedom of expression of the individual library user.

### **Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

While the aftermath of September 11th affects US libraries through the PATRIOT act, there are also other factors that contribute to affect freedom of access to information in the country. Data privacy and data Protection legislation affects access to library materials for example, and it can often affect researchers in areas such as genealogy. A response to the World Report 2005 data collection process from IFLA's Genealogy and Local History Section explains the issue further:

"Libraries serving genealogists in the United States share the public's concern for protecting personal identifying information of living individuals. However, the ability of those libraries to serve the legitimate genealogical interests of the public in historical records and databases in their holdings or on their websites can be jeopardized by well-meaning but poorly crafted data privacy and data protection legislation.

Three areas of concern are:

- Display of Social Security numbers (SSN) in historical records - if legislation that restricts the display records that bear SSNs is not limited to "living individuals," then libraries will be required to deny access to a variety of state and federal records that have heretofore been in the public domain and the Social Security Death Index database.
- Access to vital records - we are seeing more legislation that is designed to remove birth, marriage, and death records from the public domain. If this legislation does not establish a cut-off year after which those records would come into the public domain, then libraries will be prevented from ever providing access to family historians.
- Access to military discharge records - if access to hitherto publicly accessible records is restricted by legislation that does not set a cut-off year for opening to the public, libraries will be required to deny access to all military discharge records in their collections.

When these concerns are brought to legislators, they are generally willing to make the requisite changes to protect the right of the public to access historical records about deceased persons. It, therefore, behooves information providers, such as libraries and archives, and users in the genealogical community to make their concerns and needs known during the legislative process. Better legislation can protect data privacy while ensuring access to historical records."

The concerns of the genealogists cross over into territory also covered by IFLA's Copyright and other Legal Matters (CLM). As the information above shows, the past two years have seen issues for intellectual freedom



in the US that are not necessarily connected to the post-September 11th environment. However, it is against this environment that all libraries in the US continue to work for free and open access to information. The respondent from the ALA points out that the last two years have been difficult as the current administration is unusually hostile to the public's right to information. Of particular concern is not only the USA PATRIOT Act and state-level legislation granting the government unprecedented access to library records, but also significant increases in information that is "classified" or "sensitive." In addition, the Government Printing Office (GPO) is discontinuing many print publications in favor of electronic versions. The ALA is continuing to work to ensure that those materials are - and remain - accessible to the public.

### **HIV/AIDS awareness**

In the United States, public libraries strive to provide information on all topics of current or historical interest. While each individual library makes programming decisions based on the needs of the local community, all provide access to information on HIV/AIDS and other important topics.

### **Women and freedom of access to information**

The respondent indicated that libraries were not specifically promoting women's literacy but pointed out that libraries in the US make individual programming decisions based on the needs of their local communities. Because women's rights are well established in the laws and culture of the US, most communities will not have a need for literacy programs specifically targeted to women. Nonetheless, many libraries pro-

vide literacy programs for their communities.

### **IFLA Internet Manifesto**

The ALA has adopted the Internet Manifesto. Libraries continue to provide access to the Internet for the members of their communities. Although some filter Internet access, most provide unfiltered access on request. Libraries are the primary source of Internet access for those who do not have access at home, work or school.

### **IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom**

The ALA has adopted the Glasgow Declaration. Librarians work in their local communities, and in their local, state and national associations, to provide free and open access to information, to protect the public's right to choose for itself what to read, and to protect the confidentiality of library use. In their local communities, librarians strive to provide access to a wide range of materials and to serve the information needs of their patrons. In their associations, they work to promote the importance of intellectual freedom, to lobby for effective First Amendment legislation and to challenge legislation that limits the public's right to information.

### **Ethics**

The ALA adopted a code of ethics in 1939. It was revised and updated in 1995. Many libraries include the ALA Code of Ethics in their board-approved library policies.



## Libraries and Internet Access

The following section compares data and answers from 2005 with the 2003 and (where possible) 2001 IFLA/FAIFE World Reports and adds context from respondent's estimates regarding numbers of public and research libraries.

Population Online: 67.4% (2003: 59.08%; 2001: 55.83%)

Estimated number of public libraries\*: 16,421

Average number of people served by each public library service point: 18,160

Public libraries offering Internet access: 81-100% (2003: 81-100%)

Estimated number of research libraries\*\*: 90,000

Research libraries offering Internet access: 81-100% (2003: 81-100%)

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: No (2003: No)

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: Yes, to a certain degree in order to protect children (2003: Yes, to a certain degree in order to protect children)

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: Yes, in all libraries (2003: Yes, in all libraries)

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access in the library system in the last two years: No

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities

## Main Indicators

Country Name: United States

Population: 298,213,000

Main Language: English, Spanish (spoken by a sizable minority)

Literacy: 97% (1999)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition





### Responding institution: National Library of Uzbekistan

This is Uzbekistan's second contribution to the World Report but it must be noted that a different institution is responsible for the 2005 entry. The response refers to 17,000 public service points and 9506 research libraries. The backdrop to this country report is outbreaks of recent violence in the east of the country. The third party sources used below explain how government controls over media, both print and online, have prevented a clear picture of events emerging from the region. It is clear that the government is interested in maintaining control of information in the country, to the extent that it is prepared to ban newspapers and to try to block websites providing opinions and resources on issues such as politics and religion.

Against this background and compared to the 2003 report, Internet penetration has risen only slightly in Uzbekistan and levels of Internet access in public

libraries remain the same as in 2003. Less than 20% of public libraries and 41-60% of research libraries are providing Internet access. A change is indicated regarding access charges in this year's response - in 2003 Internet access was noted as being free in public libraries only, but in 2005 apparently only research libraries offer free access. Another indicated change concerns filtering, with the library association moving to being in favour of filtering to a certain degree from the 2003 position of not in favour. Regardless of this, it appears that the use of filtering is not widespread in Uzbekistan's libraries. It is likely, however, that the situation is similar to that described in the Syrian country report - that government control of telecommunications networks means that filtering can be imposed further 'upstream' out of the influence of libraries.

Looking at the special areas of focus, it appears that no anti-terror legislation has been passed that will directly affect library users. Libraries are involved with the promotion of HIV/AIDS awareness through

meetings with library users, and they also promote women's literacy through seminars and co-operation with women's groups.

The library association has not adopted a code of ethics or the Internet Manifesto or the Glasgow Declaration. It does intend to take action in all three areas in the next two years however.

### **User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

There has been no anti-terror legislation passed that adversely affects library users' intellectual freedom, and the respondent indicated that if legislation was passed in the future, it was not thought that it would impact on library users. The respondent also thought that keeping user records did not affect freedom of expression.

### **Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

The most recent news to come out of Uzbekistan relating to intellectual freedom deals with the aftermath of events in May 2005, when there were violent disturbances in the east of the country. According to news from ReliefWeb and the RFE/RL on the 17th May 2005, the Uzbek authorities made every effort to impose a media blackout on the incidents in the east, giving almost no information on the situation and leaving the people in darkness. Furthermore, in Andijon local newspapers were stopped from publishing and the town was cut off from the Internet. This type of action is not uncommon - according to Article 19, a Tajik language

newspaper was closed by the authorities earlier in the spring 2005, and the organisation has lodged two cases with the UN Human Rights Committee, alleging the violation of the publisher's right to freedom of expression and the reader's right to receive information.

While the international media organisations and human rights groups have protested against the restrictions in the publishing media, access to the Internet has also been limited while at the same time the government's influence on the Internet has increased. The World Press Freedom Review 2004 details the newly established website for the Committee of Freedom of Speech and Expression (CFSE) which was blocked by the Uzbek Internet service providers as the site regularly published information and analytical materials on subjects avoided by the local press. Internet service providers block access to certain websites, such as those dealing with politics and religion.

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## HIV/AIDS awareness

Libraries in Uzbekistan have been involved in promoting HIV/AIDS awareness by arranging educational meetings for library users who can receive information on health problems. The initiative has not yet stretched to those members of the community unable to read.

## Women and freedom of access to information

Uzbek regional library associations often hold seminars and training relating to gender problems - including women's literacy problems. In order to specifically promote women's access to information on topics such as healthcare and family planning, libraries are co-operating with organisations such as the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan and the Women's Leaders Centre of Uzbekistan.

## IFLA Internet Manifesto

The Internet Manifesto has not been adopted, although it is intended to adopt it in two years.

## IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom

The Glasgow Declaration has not been adopted either, although it is also intended to adopt it in two years.

## Ethics

There is as yet no code of ethics for librarians in Uzbekistan, but it is intended that one will be adopted in two years.

### Main Indicators

Country Name:	Uzbekistan
Population:	26,593,000
Main Language:	Uzbek 74.3%, Russian 14.2%, Tajik 4.4%, other 7.1%
Literacy:	99.3% (2003)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition



### Libraries and Internet Access

The following section compares data and answers from 2005 with the 2003 IFLA/FAIFE World Report and adds context from respondent's estimates regarding numbers of public and research libraries.

Population Online:	1.9% (2003: 0.39%)
Estimated number of public libraries*:	17,000 (5700 public libraries with 11,300 branches)
Average number of people served by each public library service point:	1564
Public libraries offering Internet access:	Less than 20% (2003: Less than 20%)
Estimated number of research libraries**:	9605 (9500 school and college libraries, 65 university libraries, 40 libraries of Scientific and Research Institutes of the Science Academy System)
Research libraries offering Internet access:	41-60% (2003: 41-60%)
Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals:	Yes, to a certain degree in order to protect children, safeguard national security and safeguard public morality (2003: No)
Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries:	No (2003: No)
Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers:	Yes, in research libraries only (2003: Yes, in public libraries only)
Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access in the library system in the last two years:	No

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities



### Responding institution: Zambia Library Association

Zambia contributed to the World Report in 2001 but not in 2003. The estimated number of public library service points in the country is 20, and according to the Zambia Library Service Annual Report for 2000, the number of research libraries is 1000. No adverse anti-terror legislation has been passed in Zambia, and the overall intellectual freedom situation facing the country's libraries is currently dominated by the stalled progress of an Information Bill intended to make access to government resources easier. Governmental interference with library acquisitions is also extremely worrying, as well as legal action affecting the freedom of the press.

Internet penetration in Zambia is under 1% and Internet access in the public library network is in its infancy - less than 20% of service points offer Internet access to users. Research libraries, on the other hand, appear to be more advanced in terms of IT

provision and the respondent indicated that 61-80% of the country's 1000 identified research libraries offer the Internet. This impressive coverage is in stark contrast to the overall penetration rate and may be the result of government investment in the last two years. Access in these locations is likely to be unfiltered - the library association is not in favour of filtering and use of filtering software is not widespread in the country's libraries. Regarding charges, Internet access costs in all the country's libraries.

Libraries in Zambia are involved in programmes to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS - also to members of the community unable to read. Libraries are likewise involved in programmes focusing on the promotion of women's literacy. Most of the activities are undertaken in cooperation with a number of national NGOs. Libraries also specifically promote women's access to information.

The Zambia Library Association has not adopted a code of ethics, the IFLA Internet Manifesto or the

Glasgow Declaration but intends to do so in the next two years.

### **User privacy and anti-terror legislation**

Anti-terror legislation that would adversely affect library users' intellectual freedom has not been passed in Zambia. If such legislation should be passed, the Zambia Library Association thinks it likely that it would impact on user privacy. Also the keeping of user records is considered to affect the freedom of expression of the individual Internet library user.

### **Reported incidents/violations of intellectual freedom in the past two years**

As to whether or not major incidents affecting freedom of access to information and freedom of expression have occurred, the library association reports the following: In February 2001, the Zambian Government published a draft Information Bill that, if passed, would have made it easier for the press to access governmental information resources. The draft Bill was, however, withdrawn before being tabled (Makungu 119:2004). To date, the Zambian people and the media are still fighting for the legislation of the Information Bill.

There are other examples of the situation facing freedom of access to information in Zambia. Some time ago, the government placed embargos on documents in a number of libraries including the University of Zambia such as: In search of enemies; A CIA story by John Stockwell; Africa confidential; the African communist; and Lumpa Church:

the genesis and development 1956-1964 by Jean Loup Calmettes.

Furthermore, the following examples refer specifically to freedom of expression. The staff at The Post Newspaper experienced a number of difficulties in carrying out their duties, and the following cases fall under so-called "Landmark Legal Judgements":

- Post editor cleared of espionage
- The people vs Fred M'membe, Masatso Phiri and Bright Mwape
- The right to protest: Fred M'membe in High Court
- Michael Sata vs the Post
- Fred M'membe and Bright Mwape vs the Attorney General
- Willie Mubanga vs the Post

All these cases affected The Post library in referring to the actual newspapers.

### **HIV/AIDS awareness**

Libraries in Zambia are involved in programmes to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS by disseminating information related to the subject. They also provide information to members of the community unable to read. During the Library Week and other events information about HIV/AIDS is made available through public talks, demonstrations, drama plays, video shows, charts, posters, music, and talking books.

### **Women and freedom of access to information**

Zambian libraries are also involved in the promotion of women's literacy but most of the activities are under-

taken by NGOs such as Women for Change (WFC); Zambia Association for Research and Development (ZARD); Non-Governmental Organisation Coordinating Committee (NGOCC); The Forum for African Women Educationalists of Zambia (FAWEZA), Programme for the Advancement of Girl's Education (PAGE); and Young Women Christian Association (YWCA).

Libraries specifically promote women's access to information on social issues, economics, education, health and family planning.

### IFLA Internet Manifesto

The Zambia Library Association has not adopted the Internet Manifesto but intends to do so in the next two years.

### IFLA Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Infor-

### mation Services and Intellectual Freedom

Neither has the association adopted the Glasgow Declaration but it intends to do so in the next two years as well.

### Ethics

The Zambia Library Association has not adopted a code of ethics but intends to do so in the next two years.

#### Main Indicators

Country Name:	Zambia
Population:	11,668,000
Main Language:	English (official), major vernaculars - Bemba, Kaonda, Lozi, Lunda, Luvale, Nyanja, Tonga, and about 70 other indigenous languages
Literacy:	80.6% (2003)

Population figures are 2005 estimates from the UN Populations Prospects Database, while language and literacy is from the CIA World Factbook 2005 Edition





### Libraries and Internet Access

Zambia contributed to the World Report in 2001 but not in 2003 when new data collection procedures were introduced. Consequently, only online population figures can be compared.

Population Online: 0.6% (2001: 0.16%)

Estimated number of public libraries\*: 20

Average number of people served by each public library service point: 583,400

Public libraries offering Internet access: Less than 20%

Estimated number of research libraries\*\*: 1000 (Source: Zambia Library Service Annual Report 2000)

Research libraries offering Internet access: 61-80%

Is the library association in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals: No

Is the use of filtering software widespread in the country's libraries: No

Is it free of charge to access the Internet on library computers: No

Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access in the library system in the last two years: Yes

Online population numbers are from Internet World Stats \* Public library service points, including branch libraries

\* \* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities

# Analysis and Conclusions

**Stuart Hamilton**

**&**

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The purpose of this chapter is to discuss the findings of this year's World Report. It provides some extremely interesting information about libraries and the Internet, anti-terror legislation and libraries and social responsibilities, especially in the areas of HIV/AIDS information provision and women's access to information. The data collected in the process of compiling this report also updates the investigations undertaken in 2003.

The findings will be described in manageable sections and draw out the global and regional trends thrown up by the responses. Before the analysis for this year's report is presented however, it is informative to briefly revisit the findings of the 2001 and 2003 World Reports in order to add some context to the 2005 findings.

## **Findings of the World Report 2001**

The 2001 IFLA/FAIFE World Report featured contributions from 46 of the world's nations. The data

collection process for the 2001 report was completely different to the process put in place for the 2003 report and this year's edition. In 2001, IFLA members were invited to submit individual reports that detailed the challenges facing the libraries in their country. Contributors were asked to concentrate their reports on the following areas; the general situation concerning libraries, librarianship and intellectual freedom in the country; specific incidents or violations of intellectual freedom; legislation relevant to libraries, librarianship and intellectual freedom; library association positions relating to intellectual freedom including professional codes of conduct. The end result was that alongside a detailed historical overview of the state of library services, the reports discussed a great variety of challenges and problems that libraries have to tackle, including an absence of constitutional rights, censorship in its many forms, economic barriers to the acquisition of materials, poor levels of staffing and a lack of professionals and professional training.

In 2001 the gap between developing and developed countries regarding Internet access was detailed for the first time. Many countries reported the budgetary problems that come with attempting to set up Internet access in libraries, and others still described the ever-increasing prices of digital journals and information resources that sapped budgets and diverted resources. In developing countries the situation was dire; but even in developed countries the need for Internet access facilities was placing a strain on resources.

Generally the 2001 report showed enormous differences worldwide regarding approaches to human rights, freedom of access to information, finances and condition of library sources. The conclusion stated that these differences were so profound that a general picture would mask important local considerations. While some countries were operating at a high level with regards to freedom of information legislation others were working within a frame of censorship and limited political attention to the role of libraries.

### **The 2003 World Report**

Because of the way country reports were submitted in 2001, with differing levels of content, detail and issues addressed, and a rather long production process undertaken between 1999 and 2001 that, despite attempts to update some of the information provided, did not take latest developments into account, it was therefore decided in 2003 to make the data collection process more standardised. The 2001 process did have its advantages, in that it primarily reflected investigations by the IFLA/FAIFE Committee and

Office and other co-operating library professionals and human rights activists in the contributing countries. This method led to detailed reports on censorship and the general intellectual freedom situation in 2001 but, with the contributors of the country reports choosing different areas of focus and their own level of detail, country-to-country or regional comparisons were made difficult.

Following an evaluation exercise in 2002 it was decided that the 2003 World Report should be based on factual data that would enable comparisons to be made and also make follow-ups on developments in individual countries easier. Unfortunately, resources were not available for comprehensive monitoring, research and editing of the 2003 report. Instead, existing resources were mobilised to launch a report that uses questionnaires to collect information from IFLA members around the world. This approach had its advantages, in that the data collection process via email went smoothly, yielded a large number of informative responses, and almost doubled the number of contributing countries. However, fewer contributions provided information regarding intellectual freedom violations.

Nevertheless, the 2003 World Report did cover 88 countries and provided useful comparative information, especially relating to the Internet. The Digital Divide was shown to clearly exist between libraries in the developed world and those in the developing, with African and Asian respondents indicating very low levels of Internet access, especially in public libraries. European and North American respondents, on the other hand, reported very high levels of access. The results showed differences between regions too, with eastern and western Europe showing marked differ-

ences in access levels. Other findings from the questionnaire related to the use of filtering software on library Internet terminals. While the use of software could not be said to be widespread in the international library community, nearly half of respondents were in favour of using it, at least to some degree. The reasons given for this were many, and a real need was felt on behalf of respondents to protect children and safeguard public morality.

Internet user privacy was also explored in the questionnaire and it was discovered that most respondents took a strong stand on the keeping of user records - nearly three quarters of replies indicated that the keeping of Internet user records affects library users' privacy and freedom of expression, and a similar amount of respondents stated that consequently their libraries did not keep Internet use records. This was encouraging in light of the post-September 11th environment.

Financial barriers to accessing the Internet were examined too, and the responses showed that library users in Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean were likely to be charged to access the Internet. Altogether, 40% of respondents indicated that the Internet was charged for in all their country's libraries, while another 30% said that some form of charge was made in either public or research libraries. The questionnaire also asked respondents what the most significant obstacle to accessing information on the Internet in their country was - 55% answered that it was financial barriers.

Aside from Internet issues, the questionnaire also looked at the status of national adoption of IFLA

policies and statements adopted by the Council of IFLA such as the Internet Manifesto and the Glasgow Declaration, as well as the number of library associations that had adopted a code of ethics. 38 respondents out of 85 had adopted a code of ethics, while 24 intended to adopt one in the two years following the survey. The Internet Manifesto had been adopted by 24 library associations out of 79 respondents, and the Glasgow Declaration by 20 out of 82 respondents. This year's questionnaire updates these results.

Where the 2003 World Report did not do so well, however, was in the reporting of violations of intellectual freedom. The questionnaire did not elicit many responses, only 14 from 89 contributors, even if the examples given by these respondents were disturbing. Incidents ranging from the blocking of Internet-accessible information resources to threats against library professionals by authorities were detailed, as well as occurrences of censorship relating to library materials and the media. These incidents were similar in nature to those described in the 2001 report and showed that censorship and violations of intellectual freedom are very much alive in the library world.

Overall, the 2003 World Report showed the great differences that exist across the international library community to accessing information. Further information and analysis of the data in the World Report 2003 can be found in the PhD thesis by Stuart Hamilton sponsored by IFLA/FAIFE and the Royal School of Library and Information Science in Copenhagen, Denmark entitled 'To what extent can libraries ensure that access to Internet-accessible information resources remains free, equal and unhampered, on a global scale?'

The Findings of the 2005 World Report

The purpose of the following section is to draw out the broad findings of this year’s research and highlight the challenges facing the international library community in our areas of focus. While the analysis will paint a global picture of the situation facing libraries in the 84 contributing countries, it will also show how things differ from region to region.

The regional definitions used in this section come from the United Nations Population Prospects Database. The number of respondents from each region breaks down as follows:

REGION	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES RESPONDING
AFRICA	17
ASIA	18
EUROPE	27
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN	14
NORTH AMERICA	2
OCEANIA	6

Table 2: Regional distribution of respondents

The first three sections below consider Internet access in libraries, and look at the existence of the Digital Divide; the extent to which filtering software is used in libraries; and the costs of accessing the Internet in libraries. Following this, this year’s special areas are analysed: libraries and anti-terror legislation; violations of intellectual freedom; HIV/AIDS awareness and libraries; women’s literacy and access to information. Adoption of codes of ethics, the IFLA Internet

Manifesto and the Glasgow Declaration are looked at next, before a final conclusion.

The Digital Divide - The Extent of Internet Access in Libraries

The problems of differential levels of access to information technology, especially the Internet, have been a core area of focus for FAIFE since the first World Report in 2001. A lack of access to the Internet deprives library users of a core information resource in the 21st century. The 2003 World Report detailed the problems of overcoming the existing digital divide that was especially affecting libraries in Africa and parts of Asia. This year’s report followed up on this issue, seeking to find if levels of Internet access in libraries have improved since 2003.

Question 1 of the questionnaire asked respondents to estimate the levels of Internet access in their country’s public and research libraries. Overall, and on a straight comparison with the 2003 results, a trend can be seen towards increased access in both public and research libraries. It is especially marked by more countries being able to offer Internet access in 81-100% of their public libraries, and a significant number less offering Internet access in fewer than 20% of their research libraries. The two tables below illustrate the overall results on a global scale and place them for comparison alongside the 2003 results.

% OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES OFFERING INTERNET ACCESS	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES OFFERING ACCESS AT THIS LEVEL	
	2005 (83 COUNTRIES*)	2003 (86 COUNTRIES**)
81-100%	27 (33%)	18 (21%)
61-80%	6 (7%)	5 (6%)
41-60%	7 (8%)	10 (12%)
21-40%	10 (12%)	14 (16%)
LESS THAN 20%	33 (40%)	39 (45%)

**Table 3: Percentage of Public libraries within a country offering Internet access**

\* No reply from Papua New Guinea \*\* No reply from Nicaragua and Vatican City

% OF RESEARCH LIBRARIES OFFERING INTERNET ACCESS	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES OFFERING ACCESS AT THIS LEVEL	
	2005 (81 COUNTRIES*)	2003 (87 COUNTRIES**)
81-100%	39 (49%)	39 (46%)
61-80%	10 (12%)	10 (11%)
41-60%	9 (11%)	10 (11%)
21-40%	9 (11%)	8 (9%)
LESS THAN 20%	14 (17%)	20 (23%)

**Table 4: Percentage of Research libraries within a country offering Internet access**

\* No reply from Costa Rica, Netherlands Antilles and Romania

\*\* No reply from Costa Rica

The results are more interesting on a regional scale however, showing as they do the countries where access levels have changed since 2003.

## Africa

In Africa, only two countries, the island nations of Mauritius and the Seychelles, are able to offer access in 81-100% of their public libraries. This high figure

is a reflection of the small public library systems present in the countries but should not be overlooked. Otherwise levels of access in public libraries are very low, as in 2003, with 13 out of 17 respondents unable to offer access in more than 20% of their public libraries. Of the 10 respondents from 2003, Egypt has improved its access levels (from 21-40% to 61-80%), while Ghana and Kenya are both offering less access than previously. All other respondents remained at the same levels of access. When it comes to research libraries, more countries are able to offer the highest levels of access since 2003 - up from 1 to 3 countries (Ghana, Kenya and the Seychelles). This must be balanced, however, with the finding that 7 out of 17 of the 2005 respondents are offering access in less than 20% of their research libraries - a slightly worse percentage than in 2003. Of the 10 respondents from 2003, four countries have improved their levels of access (Egypt, Ghana, Kenya and Uganda), while 2 (Botswana, Ethiopia) have decreased access levels. Overall then, the theme in public libraries is very low levels of access, with little positive change since 2003. There is a slow move towards greater levels of access in research libraries but overall access levels remain very similar to 2003.

## Asia

Proportionally, access levels in Asia's public libraries appear to be very similar to 2003 with a slight trend towards more access overall. Singapore and Hong Kong remain the only two countries responding who were able to offer access in 81-100% of their public libraries (and their research libraries too). Access levels stayed the same for 10 of the 12 2003 respondents but two countries - Azerbaijan and Mongolia

were able to improve access levels since the 2003 report. While there are less respondents in 2005 able to report the highest level of Internet access in their research libraries, there does appear to be a trend towards increased levels of access overall. 3 of the countries who responded in 2005 (China, India, Nepal) indicated a drop in levels of access but 3 recorded an increase (Azerbaijan, Mongolia, the Philippines). Overall, Azerbaijan and Mongolia are the 2005 success stories, with increased levels of access in both public and research libraries. It appears that there is a slow increase in overall levels of Internet access in the region's libraries but many countries are still stuck at the beginning of Internet development - for example, Georgia, Pakistan, Russia, Sri Lanka and Turkmenistan (5 out of 17 respondents) offer the lowest levels of access in public and research libraries.

### Europe

In Europe, 25 of this year's 27 respondents contributed to the 2003 report making an overall comparison easier. Romania and Spain contribute for the first time. Levels of Internet access appear to be on the rise in public libraries. 6 countries who responded in 2003 had increased levels of access (Croatia, Estonia, Italy, Latvia, Poland and Serbia and Montenegro) and only 1 (Andorra) indicated a lower level. All other respondents from 2003 stayed the same. 13 out of 27 countries are able to offer the highest levels of access, and only 5 the lowest. In 2003 there were 8 at the highest and 10 at the lowest out of 33 respondents. Regarding research libraries, newcomer Romania did not indicate levels of access in research libraries but aside from this the research library results reflect the public library ones - overall access has increased. 22

out of 26 countries offer the highest levels of access (it was 19 out of 33 in 2003) which is a very encouraging result. Only one 2003 respondent indicated a drop in access levels (Moldova) while 4 (Andorra, Cyprus, Italy, Serbia and Montenegro) indicated an increase. Overall the 2005 results show higher levels of access in public libraries, an improvement on 2003, and very high levels of access in research libraries indeed (85% of respondents offered the highest levels of access).

### Latin America and the Caribbean

With 5 new contributors it is difficult to draw a definite comparison with the 2003 results from Latin America and the Caribbean. This is a region with polarised levels of Internet access in public libraries (some very high, some very low) but slowly increasing levels of access in research libraries. This year's findings show that 6 out of 14 respondents are able to provide the highest levels of access in public libraries while 5 out of 14 offer the lowest. This is a change from 2003, suggesting an increase in overall access, although it should be noted that 5 respondents this year are first time contributors. There was one improvement from 2003 - Trinidad and Tobago increased from 21-40% to 81-100% of public libraries offering Internet access. Moving on to research libraries, the 2005 responses indicated that no contributing country is offering the lowest level of access in research libraries, and in fact there are a variety of access levels on offer throughout the region. The responses indicate a better level of overall access than in 2003 (albeit with the caveat of 5 new respondents) but it should be noted that 5 of the 2003 respondents actually reported a drop in levels of access in research libraries (Aruba, Colombia, Mexico, Nicaragua,



Trinidad and Tobago). Taking public and research libraries together, it is encouraging to report that some first time contributors, like the Bahamas, Cuba and especially Jamaica show that it is possible to develop strong Internet access in a country's libraries. But other newcomers, like Ecuador and Peru, show that there is still a long way to go.

### North America

It is simple to report on North America where there is no change from 2003 - both Canada and the USA offer the highest levels of access in public and research libraries.

### Oceania

In Oceania the overall situation is similar to that in 2003. Research libraries in the region appear to offer very good Internet access but, aside from Australia and New Zealand, levels of access in public libraries have space to improve. Australia and New Zealand continue to offer Internet access in 81-100% of their public libraries but levels in Fiji remained very low (less than 20%) and Papua New Guinea did not reply. Levels have dropped in Guam but improved in New Caledonia - meaning there are now two countries at 'middle' levels of access (41-60%). Looking at research libraries, Australia and New Zealand again report Internet access in 81-100% of their research libraries but Guam and Fiji have seen access levels reduced (drastically in Fiji although the respondent's interpretation of 'research libraries' for the 2003 report was narrower, making access levels appear higher). On the other hand, New Caledonia has improved its research library access from less than 20%

to 81-100% and Papua New Guinea also indicated the highest level of access.

What the 2005 Digital Divide findings show is that compared to 2003 there has been a slight overall increase in levels of access in both public and research libraries. In Africa there appears to be a slow move towards greater levels of access in research libraries but overall access levels remain very similar to 2003. Northern America remains the same, along with Oceania and the Latin American respondents. Asia's responses show a slight increase in both public and research library access but it is Europe that shows a more pronounced rise - especially in public libraries. Despite these slight increases, there is still a long way to go, especially in Africa.

### Library Internet Access and Filtering

As library Internet use increases the types of information that users access becomes more varied. However, at the same time as access to increasing numbers of information resources is opened up, there is also the possibility that material deemed to be less appropriate is accessed by users. This type of material differs according to perception - it could be pornographic, it could be political or it could be religious in nature. As could be expected, the type of material deemed 'dangerous', 'offensive' or 'subversive' differs from country to country and region to region. Regardless of its content, its appearance on Internet screens inevitably leads to calls for the filtering of Internet access - especially in libraries where children are active users. How libraries choose to deal with calls for filtering is best decided on a local level but guidance from a national library association can play a decisive role (especially



if professional values and policies such as the IFLA Internet Manifesto are adopted) - as can interference from governments, local or national. In some cases, where Internet filtering is imposed higher ‘upstream’ in a country’s network, librarians will have filtering decisions removed from their hands altogether.

As in 2003, this year’s questionnaire looked at attitudes towards filtering software and its implementation in libraries. It is interesting to chart how the use of filtering software grows or shrinks over time, because its use has implications for the type of information that can be viewed in libraries - filtering software is prone to overblocking and underblocking websites, blocking some legitimate sites while letting offensive sites through. Furthermore, it is interesting to chart the use of filtering post-September 11th, as certain governments are keen to restrict access to resources allegedly associated with the war against terror. In their haste to stop terrorist communications it is possible that legitimate resources are blocked in the name of security.

The first part of the question asked whether the

library association was in favour of filtering Internet terminals, the second part asked the extent to which the software is actually used and the final part of the question looked at the motivations behind filtering. Overall, and on a straight comparison with the 2003 results, it can be seen that more library associations are to some degree in favour of Internet filtering than in 2003, and that the extent to which the software is used in libraries slowly growing. This is a worrying development in light of the problems of overblocking and underblocking caused by filtering software but the results show that the desire to protect children from accessing harmful materials lies at the root of this change. The issue of children’s access is now firmly on the table in the international library community and is manifesting itself in an approach which might, if handled badly, eventually impact upon adult access to information as well. The results give the impression that use of filtering software is becoming more widespread even in places where the library association is not in favour of its use, a situation that appears to be caused by heightened worries on behalf of society about what children might find online.

IS THE ASSOCIATION IN FAVOUR OF FILTERING ON INTERNET TERMINALS?	YES		YES, TO A CERTAIN DEGREE		No	
	2005	2003	2005	2003	2005	2003
NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	13 (17%)	5 (6%)	33 (44%)	34 (42%)	29 (39%)	43 (52%)

2005: 75 Countries - Questionnaires incorrectly filled in by Angola, Ethiopia, Seychelles, Finland, Ireland, United Kingdom, Jamaica, Guam, and Papua New Guinea

2003: 82 Countries - Questionnaires incorrectly filled in by Netherlands Antilles, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Panama and Vatican City

Table 5: Library associations’ position on filtering library Internet terminals

IS USE OF FILTERING SOFTWARE WIDESPREAD IN LIBRARIES?	Yes		Yes, TO A CERTAIN DEGREE		No	
	2005	2003	2005	2003	2005	2003
NUMBER OF COUNTRIES	9 (11%)	8 (10%)	27 (34%)	23 (27%)	43 (55%)	52 (63%)

2005: 79 countries - Questionnaires incorrectly filled in by Finland, Jamaica, Nevis, Guam, and Papua New Guinea

2003: 83 countries - Questionnaires incorrectly filled in by Costa Rica, Namibia, Panama and South Africa

**Table 6: Extent to which filtering software is widespread in respondents' country's libraries**

As with the Digital Divide responses, it is more interesting to look at these results on a regional scale.

## Africa

While more African respondents are in favour of filtering than not (at least to a certain degree) the actual use of the software could not be said to be widespread in the region - yet. In 3 countries the library association is in favour of filtering (Cape Verde, Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria), in 5 countries it is in favour to a certain degree (Botswana, Ghana, Kenya, Sierra Leone, Tanzania) while in 6 countries it is not in favour (Benin, Egypt, Mauritius, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia). 3 countries, Angola, Ethiopia and the Seychelles, did not indicate an answer here, perhaps because the country's library association, if it exists, has not yet adopted a position on filtering. All of the 11 respondents from 2003 (Angola, Benin, Botswana, Cape Verde, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Swaziland, Uganda) held the same positions except Swaziland which moved from being in favour of filtering to a certain degree to not being in favour. Regarding the extent to which filtering software is used in libraries, only one country, Cape Verde, reports that its use was widespread. 6 countries (Botswana, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Seychelles, Sierra Leone) indicated it was

widespread to a degree, while the remaining 10 said its use was not widespread. While this is encouraging, three 2003 respondents (Botswana, Ethiopia, Ghana) indicated that the use of filtering software in their countries has become more widespread in the past two years. Only one respondent from 2003 indicated that its use has become less widespread. This was Swaziland, which indicated a change in library association position on filtering - from 'In favour to a certain degree' to 'Not in favour'. Overall, it appears that use of filtering software could be slowly growing in African libraries, even while levels of library association support for the software's use remain broadly similar to 2003. Even once new contributors to the report are taken into account, this trend is seen in countries like Botswana, Ethiopia and Ghana.

## Asia

This year's responses indicate that there are now more library associations in favour of filtering in Asia than in 2003. There are 5 respondents in favour of filtering - Japan, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Singapore, and Turkmenistan. Compared to 2003, Singapore and Japan moved to a definitely in favour position while first time respondents Kazakhstan, Pakistan and Turkmenistan indicated an 'In favour' response.

6 respondents - Azerbaijan, China, Hong Kong, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Uzbekistan - are in favour to a certain degree with Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan moving further towards favouring filtering since 2003, while the remaining 7 are not in favour (Georgia, India, Israel, Mongolia, Nepal, Russia, Syria). Only the Indian library association shifted position against filtering from 2003. However, compared to 2003 the extent to which use of filtering software is at least some degree widespread fell slightly - in 2003 it was 8 out of 17 countries but in 2005 it is 8 of 18 countries. Filtering is widespread in 3 countries' libraries (Russia, Singapore, Turkmenistan), widespread to a certain degree in 5 (China, Hong Kong, Israel, Japan, Philippines) and not widespread in the remaining 10 (Azerbaijan, Georgia, India, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Syria, Uzbekistan). 7 of the 11 respondents from 2003 indicated the same response this year (Azerbaijan, China, Georgia, Hong Kong, India, Mongolia, Uzbekistan, Russia) but use of filtering increased in the Philippines and Singapore. It is important to note that in Russia the situation remains the same as in 2003 - the association is not in favour of filtering, and yet the use of filtering software is widespread in the country's libraries.

### Europe

Compared to the 2003 report it can be seen that Europe's library associations are moving towards a position where filtering is tolerated to a degree. In 2003 two thirds of the respondents were not in favour of filtering but now it can be seen that just over half the respondents are in favour of the technology at least to some degree. The need to protect children from exposure from harmful materials is the main motivation.

In light of this, filtering software is becoming slightly more widespread in libraries - even if it does not yet reflect the library associations' changed positions. 11 out of 26 (42%) countries indicated that filtering software is at least to a degree widespread, leaving 15 where it is not widespread at all. This means use of the software is more widespread in Europe than in 2003, when only 11 out of 33 (33%) respondents indicated the software was at least to a degree widespread in libraries.

The library association in 1 country, Moldova, is in favour of filtering while 12 respondents are in favour to a certain degree (Andorra, Belgium (Flanders), Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Macedonia, Romania, Spain, Switzerland). 11 respondents are not in favour (Croatia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovenia, Sweden, Ukraine). Compared to 2003, 7 respondents moved towards a more favourable position on filtering (Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Italy, Moldova, Switzerland) while 3 moved to a less favourable position on filtering (Croatia, Cyprus, Slovenia). Finland and the United Kingdom, on the other hand, indicated that the library association had not yet formulated a position on the issue and was in the process of doing so. Ireland did not answer.

Use of filtering software is widespread in Romania and United Kingdom but it is widespread to a certain degree in nine other countries (Andorra, Belgium (Flanders), Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Switzerland). Use of the software is not widespread in 15 countries (Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova,

Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine). Finland did not answer this question because it is currently revising its policy. While 19 of the 25 respondents from 2003 kept the same position actual use of filtering software became more widespread in 4 countries (Belgium, Estonia, Italy, United Kingdom). Use of filtering became less widespread in Slovenia.

### Latin America and the Caribbean

The responses from Latin America and the Caribbean indicate that library associations in the region hold broadly the same views as in 2003. 3 countries did become more in favour of filtering however - nearly a third of respondents - and with 11 out of 13 countries being at least to a degree in favour of filtering the results show that librarians in the region accept that filtering is needed to an extent to manage children's Internet access, amongst other things. Colombia, a country where Internet access has benefited from recent investment, has changed its position towards a more favourable view of filtering. Regarding the extent to which filtering software is actually used, it seems that 50% of the 2005 respondents are using the software to some extent (with Aruba, Nicaragua and Trinidad and Tobago reporting its use as 'widespread'). This is a change from 2003 when only 20% of respondents indicated that use of the software was widespread in their country's libraries.

The library associations in Aruba, Colombia and Nicaragua are in favour of filtering while in another 8 countries (Bahamas, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Mexico, Nevis, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago) the association is in favour to a certain degree. Two respondents,

Ecuador and the Netherlands Antilles, indicated they were not in favour while Jamaica indicated that the library association was in the process of formulating a position. Compared with the 2003 responses, Costa Rica, Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago kept the same position but Aruba, Chile and Colombia moved towards a more favourable position on filtering. When it comes to actual use, filtering software is widespread in the libraries of Aruba, Nicaragua and Trinidad and Tobago, and it is widespread to a certain degree in Chile, Cuba and Peru. It is not widespread in 6 countries (Bahamas, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Netherlands Antilles). Jamaica indicated that the library association was reviewing the situation while it adopted a firm position until Nevis did not answer. Compared to 2003, 6 of the 12 returning respondents kept the same position but use of filtering software became more widespread in Aruba and Trinidad and Tobago.

### North America

In North America, both the American and Canadian library associations are not in favour of using filtering software. This is a change for Canada who, in 2003, responded that the association was in favour of filtering to a certain degree. This move to a more anti-filtering position might suggest an awareness of the software's shortcomings - actual use of the software is widespread to a certain degree in both countries and librarians, especially in the US after the passage of the Children's Internet Protection Act, can be expected to have experience of its effectiveness. Both countries report that in 2005, as in 2003, the software is only used in order to protect children.

## Oceania

When considering the findings from Oceania, it is perhaps unwise to draw any great conclusions for the region from this question with only 4 out of 6 respondents replying in full. Fiji and New Caledonia are moving in an interesting direction however - their responses indicate that the library community has become more in favour of filtering at the same time as the software appears to be removed from the libraries. The library association in New Caledonia is in favour of filtering while the associations in Fiji and New Zealand are in favour to a certain degree. Australia maintained its 2003 position of not being in favour. Saying that, the responses indicate that since 2003 Australian libraries have begun to use filtering software to a certain degree - the same situation as in New Zealand. This means that in the countries in the region with the largest numbers of Internet users, library users stand a chance of having a filtered online experience.

## Motivations for Using Filtering Software

In the third part of Question 2 respondents were invited to indicate the reasons behind their motivation for filtering, choosing from the same list as was offered in 2003. Respondents were allowed to tick as many reasons as they wished and the overall results are shown in the table below:

MOTIVATION	COUNTRIES RESPONDING	
	2005 (47 COUNTRIES)	2003 (41 COUNTRIES)
PROTECTION OF CHILDREN	47	34
PROTECT NATIONAL SECURITY (E.G. TERRORISM)	8	4
SAFEGUARD RELIGIOUS VALUES	8	3
SAFEGUARD NATIONAL CULTURE	11	5
PREVENT CRIMINAL ACTIVITY (E.G. GAMBLING)	9	9
SAFEGUARD PUBLIC MORALITY	19	19
OTHER	4*	3**
TOTAL INDICATIONS	106	77

\* Reasons included political indoctrination (Turkmenistan); Spam (Australia, Chile); Porn (Costa Rica)

\*\*Reasons included: Virus Protection (Belize); Porn (Trinidad & Tobago - nb. Protection of Children/Public Morality?); Safeguarding servers (Zimbabwe)

**Table 7: Motivations for the use of filtering software**

While the motivations behind using filtering software have been mentioned in passing above and are indicated in each country report it is worth considering the overall implications of the responses. It is immediately clear that respondents to the 2005 World Report were more inclined to list the motivations behind the use of filtering software than those in 2003. There were increases in the number of respondents who were motivated by a need to protect national security, safeguard religious values and safeguard national culture. Respondents in Africa and Asia in particular seemed keener to list more motivations than in 2003. Asian respondents placed an emphasis on protecting public morality (10 out of 12 respondents) but they also saw protection of national security and prevention of crime as more of an issue than

other regions - as did Africa. In Europe, on the other hand, the 12 respondents who did indicate their motivation for filtering only picked 'protection of children' and 'safeguard public morality' - no other options were chosen. Latin America also indicated these two motivations but 4 respondents out of 9 also indicated a need to use filtering software to protect national culture, a position echoed by 4 of the 7 African respondents.

Perhaps the most disturbing response to this question came from Turkmenistan, where the respondent indicated that Internet access was filtered in order to reinforce the political ideology of the ruling powers. It is not uncommon to read about countrywide filtering systems designed to prevent Internet users from accessing information on democracy or human rights, and the case of a country such as China is well documented<sup>1</sup>. What the Turkmen response indicates however is that the library community there realises this and is prepared to report it. Several reports in recent years have described filtering systems operating in other countries contributing to this year's World Report but respondents, while they may have indicated that library Internet access is filtered to a degree, have not gone on to detail the reasons behind it or report the situation as a violation of intellectual freedom. In many cases that might be relevant to this report, filtering of Internet access takes place 'upstream' i.e. at a point on the network that is likely out of the reach of library authorities' influence. This leaves librarians with a dilemma - how do we change a situation that leaves users unable to access the fullest range of information resources, especially when decisions are taken regarding Internet filtering at the level of national politics?

The use of Internet filtering for political purposes is not widespread however. While its reporting is disturbing from the point of view of equal access to information, the most fundamental difference from the 2003 World Report is that every respondent who indicated a motivation included protection of children - if it was ever in doubt that children's access to the Internet was a major consideration for librarians this result settles the issue. Many of the respondents also indicated a desire to safeguard public morality as a motivation behind the use of filtering software - it would appear that users' accessing certain types of website (pornographic sites being the most obvious example) is a problem for many libraries. These responses are the frontline of the filtering debate in most of the countries responding to this year's survey and they show that the balancing act that librarians perform regarding the 'duty of care' to our users is very delicate. If the trends from Question 2 are anything to go by, as Internet access increases in libraries worldwide the issues of child protection and inappropriate Internet use will become more and more high profile.

### **Costs of Internet Access in Libraries**

The final Internet focus in this year's questionnaire fell upon the costs of accessing the Internet in libraries. Fair, equal and unhampered access to the Internet means that the cost of access should be as low as possible for all members of the community, even free if possible. The 2003 World Report showed that free access was not the case in a large proportion of the international library community, as both public and research libraries were forced to cover the expensive costs of connection and hardware provision. This



year's report sought to discover if the situation has improved in the last two years as libraries hopefully take advantage of advances in telecommunications technology. As in 2003, respondents were asked to indicate whether access was free in public libraries, research libraries or in all libraries. The second part of the question dealt with whether or not the state or any other authorities had made extra funding available for Internet access in libraries.

IS IT FREE OF CHARGE TO ACCESS INTERNET ON LIBRARY TERMINALS?	COUNTRIES RESPONDING	
	2005 (84 COUNTRIES)	2003 (72 COUNTRIES)**
YES, IN ALL LIBRARIES	35 (42%)	23 (32%)
YES, IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES	5 (6%)	8 (11%)
YES, IN RESEARCH LIBRARIES	19 (22%)	10 (14%)
No	25 (30%)	31 (43%)

\* No answers from Mongolia, New Zealand, Swaziland and Vatican City. Two ticks made by Canada, Egypt, France, Hong Kong, Italy, Malta, Moldova, Russian Federation, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay

**Table 8: Charges for Internet access**

### Costs of Access - Regional Breakdown

Concerning charges, more respondents than in 2003 are able to provide free access to the Internet in all libraries, and there are fewer countries where it costs in all institutions. In addition, more countries are able to provide free access in research libraries only. Overall, the results from this question would therefore suggest a positive trend but some of the major changes in the regions are worth noting. In Africa, Cape Verde and Kenya have both moved to provide free access in all libraries since 2003, and in Botswana access is now free in public libraries. In Asia, Azerbaijan has moved to free access everywhere. Georgia is

going in a different direction, however, and access - which was reported as being free in all libraries in 2003 - now costs in all types of library. In Japan and Uzbekistan it now costs to access the Internet in a public library after apparently being free in 2003. In Europe, Poland, Slovenia, Andorra and Belgium have all increased the amount of free access in their libraries while Ireland, Iceland, Moldova and Cyprus have all cut back on some free access compared to 2003. New contributors Spain and Romania are offering free access to the Internet in both public and research libraries.

In the Latin America and Caribbean region, Chile has moved from charging for Internet access in all libraries to providing free access instead. Colombia and Costa Rica have also improved to provide free access in all types of library. Newcomers Cuba, Ecuador and Nevis provide free access in all libraries, but the opposite situation is true in the Bahamas where all libraries charge for access. In Jamaica public library users pay for access, while in Peru research library users pay. In Northern America access is free in all libraries in Canada and the USA. As mentioned in the Fijian country report, Internet access is extremely expensive to provide in parts of the Oceania region. Perhaps because of this, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea charge for access in public and research libraries. New Caledonia used to charge for access in both public and research libraries in 2003, but this year's response shows that access is now free in research libraries. Fiji and Guam provide free access in whatever library the Internet can be offered in, and it is almost the same in Australia, although some public libraries may make a charge.

The findings from the second part of the question, relating to funding show a very even split regarding extra funding but proportionally, in comparison with 2003, less countries are receiving extra funds to increase Internet access.

HAS THE STATE OR OTHER LIBRARY AUTHORITIES MADE ANY EXTRA FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR INTERNET ACCESS IN THE LIBRARY SYSTEM?	COUNTRIES RESPONDING	
	2005 (80 COUNTRIES)*	2003 (87 COUNTRIES)
Yes	39 (49%)	48 (55%)
No	41 (51%)	39 (45%)

\* No tick from Guam, Nicaragua, the Seychelles and Syria

Table 9: Extra funding for library Internet access

### Extra Funding - Regional Breakdown

From a regional perspective some points of note are that in Africa, Botswana, Egypt and Uganda all received extra funding in 2005 after receiving nothing in 2003. In Asia, out of the 2003 respondents, China and Japan received extra funding in the past two years while Uzbekistan received no more extra funds. Pakistan and Israel were the only new respondents in the region to get extra funding. Of the 2003 respondents in Europe, the Czech Republic and Poland are receiving more funding that at the time of the last report. Other 2003 respondents are no longer receiving extra funds however - Belgium, Croatia, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, and Ukraine. Of the two first time respondents, Spain has received extra funding in the last two years but Romania has not. In Latin America and the Caribbean the extra funding situation has not changed since the 2003 report. New respondents

Cuba, Nevis and Peru have received extra funds in the past two years however. Finally, in North America Canada and the US received extra funds between 2001 and 2003, but not in the past two years, and in Oceania only Australia and New Caledonia have received extra funding in the past two years.

Returning to the overall trend shown by the results, that fewer countries are receiving extra funds to increase Internet access, if this trend continues libraries would suffer - it appears that injections of extra funding have paid off for many contributing countries. If these results are looked at in conjunction with Question 1, it can be seen that 14 out of 17 (Andorra, Croatia, Egypt, Estonia, Ghana, Italy, Kenya, Latvia, Mongolia, New Caledonia, Poland, Serbia and Montenegro, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda) of the 2003 respondents who reported increased access levels in public or research libraries this year received extra funds at some point between 2001 and 2005. If it is looked at with Question 4a below, it can also be seen that 10 out of 12 (Andorra, Belgium, Botswana, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Kenya, New Caledonia, Poland, Slovenia) of the 2003 respondents who reported increased levels of free Internet access in public or research libraries this year received extra funds at some point between 2001 and 2005. Somewhat surprisingly it is worth noting that Azerbaijan was able to increase levels of Internet access (and make it free to users) with no extra funding 2001-2005 but this case is not the norm. Continued funding is needed if libraries in all regions of the world are to increase access and offer the best online service to users.



### Libraries after September 11th

Since September 11th 2001 many countries around the world have tightened existing legislation or passed new laws designed to increase national security in the face of possible terrorist attacks. The effects of such legislation on libraries and their users has concerned the international library community ever since, and a resolution passed by IFLA Council at the Berlin World Congress in 2003 instructed FAIFE to report on the situation by the time of the Oslo Congress in 2005. One of the main focuses of the World Report 2005 has therefore been the effects of anti-terror legislation on intellectual freedom and libraries. As Marc Lampson points out in his paper earlier in this report, the United States library community has been directly affected by new legislation in the form of the PATRIOT Act. Question 4 of this year's questionnaire sought to find out the extent to which libraries in other countries have been or expect to be affected by any anti-terror legislation passed in the past four years. 13 countries made some comment (from a line to a paragraph) on anti-terror legislation:

- Africa: Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda
- Asia: Azerbaijan, Japan, Nepal, Philippines
- Europe: Czech Republic, Germany, The Netherlands
- Latin America/Caribbean: Cuba
- North America: Canada, United States

### The Effects of Anti-terror Legislation on Libraries

The comments made regarding anti-terror legislation varied, in that some countries, such as the US, were

already experiencing the effects of new laws and others were waiting to find out what the implications for libraries were. This was the case in Japan, the Philippines, Kenya, and Uganda - four countries where anti-terror proposals were pending. The respondents in these countries varied in their attitudes to the new legislation - the Japanese library association declared itself ready to fight for freedom of access to information in the face of the new laws, while the Kenyan Library Association did not think that any legislation would negatively impact on user privacy as user privacy has never been really a problem in Kenya. The Philippines' response, meanwhile, expressed concern for library user privacy in future. In Uganda, open-ended anti-terror legislation was passed in 2002. The Uganda legislation is similar to the USA PATRIOT Act in that it does not explicitly mention libraries in its text. It does, however, empower law enforcement officers through a court order to search for materials on specified premises - which means that an investigating officer has the discretion to search a library or user records if this is considered of substantial value to the investigation. While there have been no investigations into library details and no cases have explicitly affected libraries so far, the respondent worries that library users' privacy may well be affected in the future. This was also the situation outlined in the Canadian response, which mentioned that anti-terror legislation passed in 2001 had not yet affected libraries, although a future amendment might have some impact on users.

Some countries, such as Nepal and Tanzania, indicated that anti-terror legislation harmful to libraries had been passed but declined - perhaps for reasons of safety - to say what the effects were. Cuba's response

mentioned an amendment to the country's constitution in response to US aggression against the country and this does not seem to affect library users. The Azerbaijani respondent mentioned legislation in passing, saying that there may have been a case in the past where user records were sought out under such legislation, but it was not in connection with anti-terrorism and more in connection of trying to access forbidden literature that was anti-governmental or 'politically-incorrect'. If this is the case, it resembles the mission creep warned about in the US country report and Marc Lampson's paper.

In Europe there are also worrying responses. The Czech Republic questionnaire stated that it has been mandatory for decades to supply library user records to law enforcement agencies that require them. The response gives the impression that this situation is presenting no problems for libraries' day-to-day work - if there have been any resulting conflicts for library users' intellectual freedom there are no examples forthcoming from the Czech response. This situation will no doubt make interesting reading to librarians in Germany and the Netherlands. In Germany, an anti-terror law was passed in 2002 that allows for the investigation of library records by law enforcement agencies if sanctioned by a public prosecutor. The response suggests that in the past few years records have been requested without this sanction and libraries have refused them. It would appear that there currently exists enough oversight of proceedings to ensure that libraries are able to protect user privacy - without the public prosecutor's sanction libraries are well within their rights to refuse to hand over information.

In the Netherlands, however, oversight and transparency are two core concerns of the library community in the face of proposed terror legislation that could have serious consequences for library users. The legislation is very similar in format to that of the PATRIOT Act, in that it would give law enforcement the ability to access records of all 'holders of data' - including libraries. According to Dutch librarians and the NGO European Digital Rights (EDRi), the law will make it much easier for security agencies to get access to data, by lowering legal barriers and safeguards. As a statement by FOBID, the national umbrella organisation for co-operation between the national library organisations, puts it:

"Libraries are not convinced by soothing remarks that all law enforcement activities in the Netherlands are supervised by the public prosecutor or judge. That provides no guarantee against a too broad use of the powers granted by the draft law. In the United States, where the powers are more broadly defined, many more inquiries have been made than originally claimed, and with a much broader scope than could have been expected from the original intention to fight terrorism. The intended fight against terrorism could thus easily degenerate into a kind of moral police supervision."

The parallels with the situation in the United States are all too clear. Librarians in the Netherlands are worried about the potential for abuse of new laws and the potential impact on users' freedom of expression. They are concerned that law enforcement agencies will not reveal the extent to which libraries are used in investigations, and they are anxious that this step

will be the first on a slippery slope towards an acceptance of the monitoring of library use.

### Anti-terror and its Effects on User Privacy

The Netherlands' response clearly outlined the library community's worries about new anti-terror laws. The first part of Question 4 gave respondents the opportunity to describe existing legislation and its effects on libraries. The second part of the question asked for the respondents' views on the impact on user privacy of any passed or proposed legislation. A lot of respondents passed by this question after using the first part to indicate that no legislation had been passed. 24 countries did make an indication here, however, with 15 countries (Nevis, Ecuador, Ireland, Italy, Moldova, Norway, Netherlands, India, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Seychelles, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia) believing any such legislation will have an impact on user privacy, and 9 countries (Bahamas, Denmark, Latvia, Romania, Georgia, Hong Kong, Mongolia, Kenya, Sierra Leone) believing it will not. African respondents in particular seem to be worried about the effects of legislation - 7 out of the 9 African respondents to this question are worried that any future legislation will have an impact on user privacy.

The most notable response however, came from Syria. While indicating that domestic anti-terror legislation was not impacting library users' privacy, the Syrian respondent mentioned the effect of American export controls on Syrian access to electronic information resources. This is an offshoot of the actions of the United States Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) of the Treasury Department in the wake of

the war against terror. OFAC has imposed restrictions against trading with certain countries and this has led to problems such as those experienced by Syria. In Autumn 2003 OFAC issued an opinion that trade embargos against countries such as Iran, Cuba, Iraq, Libya, Syria and Sudan prohibit publishers from editing scientific and literary manuscripts by residents of those countries and restrict other academic and intellectual collaborations. The effects of this opinion were felt in the publishing of scholarly articles from these countries - academic journals, for example, were prohibited from substantive editing of a foreign manuscript without government permission. The same situation would have applied to literary manuscripts submitted to a US publisher, editorials from foreign authors to US newspapers and magazines, and translations and collaborations of various kinds. Following lawsuits against the department from publishers and Iranian Shirin Ebadi, a 2003 Nobel Peace Prize laureate, the restrictions were eased somewhat at the end of 2004 to allow US publishers to work with authors from countries under American economic sanctions as long as they are not government representatives. FAIFE continues to monitor the situation.

### The Keeping of User Records

The final part of Question 4 asked respondents whether they felt that keeping user records affects the freedom of expression of the individual library Internet user. In keeping with the overall theme of the question, it was hoped to gauge respondents' opinion on whether a link exists between keeping details of users' library activities and their freedom of expression and informational privacy.

DO YOU THINK THAT KEEPING USER RECORDS AFFECTS THE FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION OF THE INDIVIDUAL INTERNET LIBRARY USER?	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES ANSWERING:
	2005 (77 COUNTRIES*)
Yes	43 (56%)
No	34 (44%)

\* No answer from Croatia, Egypt, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Norway, Papua New Guinea, UK

**Table 10: The keeping of user records and freedom of expression (2005)**

It is difficult to compare with information gained in 2003. This is because in 2003 there was an emphasis on the Internet, and the question was phrased slightly differently:

DO YOU THINK THAT KEEPING INTERNET RECORDS AFFECTS USERS' FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION?	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES ANSWERING:
	2003 (82 COUNTRIES**)
Yes	58 (71%)
No	24 (29%)

\*\* No answer from Canada, Columbia, Gambia, Netherlands Antilles, New Zealand and Slovak Republic

**Table 11: The keeping of Internet records and freedom of expression (2003)**

In 2005 it has to be noted that respondents may have been unsure as to how 'user records' should be interpreted. It could be that some respondents thought this meant user registration details that are kept as identification - names, addresses etc. Obviously the keeping of such records is considered obligatory for libraries maintaining membership lists. If we are right about this interpretation of the respondents' approach to the question then it might explain the difference between the larger number of countries seeing implications for freedom of expression in the 2003 World Report.

While the confusion of what constitutes a 'user record' is discussed further in the Methodology chapter, the context of the question was anti-terror legislation and user records were implied, in the text, to be "records of print or audio-visual materials borrowed or records of Internet use on library computers". Therefore it is not unfair to assume respondents knew what types of records were being focused on. In the end 43 out of 77 (56%) countries responding did believe library users' freedom of expression to be affected by the keeping of their records. Both North American countries answered yes, along with two thirds of European respondents. In Asia 10 respondents thought yes, 8 thought no. The African respondents were split 50-50. In Latin America however, 5 respondents thought yes, keeping user records did affect users' freedom of expression but seven thought no.

In 2003 though, when applied only to Internet records, a much greater majority (71%) said yes, record keeping does harm freedom of expression. This leads us to ask: do librarians therefore see electronic and print records as totally different? Is the keeping of browsing details that different from keeping circulation/registration details? Are we, as librarians, drawing an imaginary line between the two things, happy to store one set of details and to lose the other? There is likely a problem with the phrasing of Question 4c - maybe there should have been more emphasis on law enforcement's access to user records and the consequent effect on user privacy. Nevertheless, the marked difference revealed when there is a focus on Internet use versus general use is suggesting that respondents are either very clear in their minds regarding what user records are acceptable to main-

tain, or, more extremely, that respondents in 2005 are less worried about user privacy than in 2003.

Overall, the results from question 4 show that nearly four years after the terrorist attacks in New York it is not only US librarians who are worried about the future of freedom of expression and freedom of access to information in libraries. Contributors from Uganda and Germany show that post-September 11th legislation in their countries has put worries into the minds of the library community, while librarians in Canada, Japan and the Philippines are worried about what effects future legislation might have on libraries. Most disturbingly, the country report from the Netherlands shows us that the PATRIOT Act model is ripe for export, and Dutch librarians are having to get organised to fight newly proposed legislation that would open up library users' records to law enforcement agencies in much the same as in the US. The situation in the Netherlands will be monitored with great interest.

### Violations of Intellectual Freedom

This year's responses regarding intellectual freedom should give the international library community cause for concern. While a handful of respondents simply provided links to further information on freedom of information legislation nearly all responses concerned varying dangers to intellectual freedom, from governmental interference and censorship to the high costs of access to information. As in 2003, respondents were offered the chance to comment on any incidents in the past two years that affected people's freedom of access to information and freedom of expression. The way the question was phrased in 2003 - an option to tick a box for yes or no, and

then a space for comments - perhaps contributed to very few responses, with most respondents ticking the 'No' box and moving on. This year the question was phrased differently, inviting respondents to contribute text instead of tickboxes, and consequently more information was received describing incidents and the effects they had on access to information in libraries. Out of 84 Countries surveyed, 31 countries included something - a line, or a paragraph or more - in answer to question 5. This is twice as many as in 2003. The 31 countries are listed below, with those contributing in 2003 underlined.

- Africa: Benin, Egypt, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia
- Asia: Azerbaijan, Georgia, Hong Kong, Japan, Russia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Syria, Turkmenistan
- Europe: Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Moldova, Netherlands, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom
- Latin America and the Caribbean: Chile, Cuba, Mexico
- North America: Canada, US
- Oceania: Fiji, New Caledonia

In a departure from the 2003 World Report, data from respondents was complemented this year by the work of Maninder Kaur, a research student from the Danish School of Library and Information Science. Her work analysed a variety of third party sources, most often respected human rights organisations such as Amnesty International or IFEX (International Freedom of Expression Exchange), in order to add depth to respondents' comments. The addition of information from these sources helped bring more

detail to the country reports, and often provided information on violations of human rights in countries that had been unable, or unwilling, to give further information. In total, information on violations of intellectual freedom in 38 countries has been included in this report.

## Asia

There were many worrying incidents reported from Asia, where increased Internet regulation, pressures on freedom of speech and censorship - both government-led and self-imposed - are creating a climate ill-suited to freedom of expression. China, India, Nepal, Syria and Uzbekistan are all experiencing varying degrees of interference with Internet access, ranging from filtering of websites, tightening regulation regarding the type of information that can be displayed online, monitoring of web surfing or surveillance of email. In China in particular, the government is employing advanced surveillance measures to tightly control what can be said, and accessed online. Freedom of the press is also an issue in this region, and authorities in Georgia, Kazakhstan, Nepal and Singapore have all tightened regulations recently regarding what can be published, with special attention being paid curbing criticism of the authorities in these countries. Librarians in Hong Kong are also worried about the effects a proposed anti-sedition bill could have on the freedom of the press. Two of the worst situations in the region can be found in Nepal and Turkmenistan. In Nepal the King has imposed censorship and licensing regulations on the spreading of information since taking complete control of the country early in 2005. Publications in the country are self-censoring in light of this environment and

communications are being monitored. The situation in Turkmenistan is especially disturbing as libraries are being closed and reading materials destroyed in the wake of a presidential declaration that no one in the country reads. This year's country report from Turkmenistan makes worrying reading. To continuously follow the situation, FAIFE is cooperating with other organisations and on the 29th of April a media release, 'IFLA protests closure of libraries and violations of human rights in Turkmenistan' was issued ([www.ifla.org/V/press/pr29-04-2005.htm](http://www.ifla.org/V/press/pr29-04-2005.htm)).

## Africa

Africa has intellectual freedom problems too. In Botswana an outdated security law is threatening freedom of expression for the press, and press freedom is deteriorating in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Ethiopia too. In Egypt, censorship with religious overtones is reported which is leading to a worrying situation for freedom of expression. Internet censorship does not seem to be reported as much in Africa, although the Ugandan response to this year's report suggests that government moves against pornography on the Internet could widen into tighter restrictions on what material can be accessed online in the future. In Zambia meanwhile, continuing struggles getting a freedom of information bill passed are leading to problems for newspapers disseminating information in the country.

## Europe

In other regions fewer problems are reported, but nevertheless there are a handful of cases that have implications for freedom of access to information. In



Europe, members of parliament have stepped in to get a book on parenting removed from library shelves in Latvia, while Ukrainian librarians became caught up in the controversial presidential elections of 2004 when the incumbent government told libraries not to disseminate information on opposition political candidates during the election. In Serbia and Montenegro, the government's draft freedom of information bill is, according to Article 19, failing to provide "well defined exemptions to the right of access to information, thereby excluding information of significant public interest from the public domain". Journalists in the country are also working under pressure, with continuous attacks on journalists and publishers. In Italy and Sweden two incidents are mentioned that explicitly concern libraries - in Sweden the media has been debating a supposed socialist bias in library collections, while in Italy the case of a librarian who supposedly supplied pornographic materials to a minor is ongoing. This case, where the librarian is appealing a sentence given out for providing a book on teenage drug use previously approved by a government ministry, is of particular concern to the European library community. FAIFE is supporting the Italian library association's efforts to overturn to the court's previous ruling and on the 10th of June, a media release, 'Censorship in Italy – a librarian on trial on the 17th of June' was issued ([www.ifla.org/V/press/pr10-06-2005.htm](http://www.ifla.org/V/press/pr10-06-2005.htm)).

It is also important to mention that the European Union is at present investigating the possibility of making it mandatory for Internet Service Providers to retain all communications traffic data generated by fixed and mobile telephony and the Internet for between one and three years. Information on this

situation, which was not mentioned by any questionnaire respondents, comes from third party sources such as Privacy International who are worried about the impact on European citizens' privacy and the effects on their freedom of expression. The consultation process for this measure is still ongoing but the move is strongly supported by the governments of France, Ireland, Sweden and the UK. As pointed out by Privacy International, the data in question "is well beyond being simple logs of who we've called and when we called them. Traffic data can now be used to create a map of human associations and more importantly, a map of human activity and intention." As pointed out in the FAIFE PhD project, the large-scale retention of Internet activity places a restriction on users' freedom of expression, in that user privacy is compromised by the invasive collection of user data. At the time of writing, it is unclear to what extent the European library community is aware of the data retention plans, or the extent to which library users' privacy might be affected.

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 Statewatch, Data retention comes home to roost, 2004:  
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### Latin America and the Caribbean and Oceania

It is harder to come by third party reports for Latin American and Caribbean countries due to the lack of resources in English. Nevertheless, the respondent from Chile mentioned the problems for publishers being caused by a black market in pirated books, and the intellectual freedom situation in Cuba since a government crackdown on dissidents in 2003 has been documented in reports from Amnesty International and IFEX. Mexican librarians are waiting for a transparency law on governmental information to be applied to libraries. Elsewhere, in Oceania, Fiji and New Caledonia reported potential problems for intellectual freedom from a new media law and a restrictive media environment respectively.

### North America

In North America, the Canadian response details problems for library staff regarding users accessing pornographic materials on the Internet. While library staff claimed sexual harassment, the Canadian Library Association viewed the problem as an intellectual freedom issue regarding the rights of users to access sexually explicit but legal materials. The situation, which has also been a problem in some US libraries, may become more common in other countries in future as access levels increase. It was eventually solved through the careful application of usage policies that both staff and users understood.

Librarians in the United States also reported that it was not only the fallout of the PATRIOT Act that is affecting intellectual freedom. There have been significant increases in classified or sensitive information

during the current administration's term of office, which has affected access to government information and public's right to know. Government secrecy in the US appears to be on the increase. On top of this, US Genealogists have complained that current data privacy laws are preventing research and their response to this year's report also suggests that libraries serving genealogists and local historians in other countries are also facing problems. In the UK, for example, there are issues around providing access to electoral rolls and implementation of the Scottish Freedom of Information Act that are presenting formidable obstacles to libraries, which in some cases may opt to provide no access at all. European Union data privacy directives and those in other parts of the world (e.g. Hong Kong) based on them, which are designed to prevent aggregating personal identifying information from disparate databases, may not take into account the legitimate needs of genealogists and local historians for access to information about deceased persons. To combat this, the library community must be sensitive to the issue of access to the holdings of libraries, and vigilant in monitoring the formulation of relevant legislation and regulations, and pro-active in helping formulate wording that will both protect the data privacy of the living and preserve access to the records of or information about the deceased.

Overall, the responses received in answer to question 5 show that many countries around the world are experiencing situations that are leading to pressure on freedom of expression and freedom of access to information. Whether this pressure is applied to a country's press, as in countries as diverse as Ethiopia or Serbia and Montenegro, or on Internet service providers as in Syria or Uzbekistan the effects are



still the same - a stifling of information flow that badly impacts on those in search of information. The responses detailed above, especially those of Ukraine and Turkmenistan, show that libraries are greatly affected by the national environment in which they operate. In many parts of the international library community there are still disturbing threats to intellectual freedom.

HIV/AIDS Awareness and Libraries

Libraries, as community institutions, can play an active role in meeting the needs of their users by focusing on providing access to information on topics of great relevance to the world they live in. IFLA has 150 member nations, a great number of whom are in areas of the world that are terribly afflicted by the problems of HIV and AIDS. Library authorities in these countries - and elsewhere - are perfectly placed to offer information on this subject, and to provide resources for organisations and individuals who are interested in raising awareness of a disease that threatens many of the people around the world. HIV/AIDS has been identified as a special issue for the international library community in the run up the 2007 IFLA World Library and Information Congress in Durban, South Africa. FAIFE has been asked to address the issue in Durban and the FAIFE programme at the congress will look at the role of libraries in spreading HIV/AIDS awareness. Part of this year's questionnaire therefore asked contributors to describe any projects libraries in their country had been involved in to raise awareness of HIV and AIDS, and whether or not these programmes had been extended to members of the community unable to read.

The first part of Question 6 asked respondents if libraries in their country have been involved in any programmes to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS. Tables 12 and 13 below show the overall results:

HAVE LIBRARIES IN YOUR COUNTRY BEEN INVOLVED IN ANY PROGRAMMES TO RAISE AWARENESS OF HIV/AIDS?	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES ANSWERING:
	2005 (82 COUNTRIES*)
Yes	43 (52%)
No	39 (48%)

\* No tick from the Czech Republic and Nicaragua  
Table 12: Libraries involved in HIV/AIDS awareness programmes

The second part of the question looked at the provision of information to the illiterate, and asked respondents if libraries in their country had made efforts to provide HIV/AIDS information to members of the community unable to read.

HAVE LIBRARIES IN YOUR COUNTRY MADE EFFORTS TO PROVIDE HIV/AIDS INFORMATION TO MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY UNABLE TO READ?	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES ANSWERING:
	2005 (79 COUNTRIES*)
Yes	28 (35%)
No	51 (65%)

\* No tick from Belgium, Czech Republic, Ireland, Nicaragua and Guam  
Table 13: Libraries and provision of HIV/AIDS information to those unable to read

The responses to both questions are broken down regionally in Table 14 below, where the numbers refer to the number of respondents:

		AFRICA	ASIA	EUROPE	LATIN AMERICA/ CARIBBEAN	NORTH AMERICA	OCEANIA	TOTAL
LIBRARIES INVOLVED IN HIV/AIDS AWARENESS PROGRAMMES?	Yes	10	8	11	9	2	3	43
	No	7	10	15	4	0	3	39
LIBRARIES PROVIDING HIV/ AIDS INFORMATION TO THOSE UNABLE TO READ?	Yes	9	4	7	4	2	2	28
	No	8	14	17	9	0	3	51

Table 14: Libraries and HIV/AIDS information - regional distribution of responses

### HIV/AIDS Awareness Programmes in Libraries

As the table above shows, overall, countries are more likely to have undertaken general HIV/AIDS awareness programmes than specific programmes targeting those unable to read. Just over half the respondents (43 out of 82) have been involved in HIV/AIDS awareness programmes. Regionally, awareness programs are more likely to be found in African and Latin American libraries, although US and Canadian libraries have run programmes and half of the Oceanic respondents have been involved in something similar.

The 43 respondents who indicated that libraries in their country were involved in HIV/AIDS awareness programmes were:

- Africa: Botswana, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia
- Asia: Azerbaijan, Hong Kong, India, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Philippines, Syria, Uzbekistan
- Europe: Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Italy,

Latvia, Macedonia, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom

- Latin America/Caribbean: Bahamas, Aruba, Costa Rica, Cuba, Jamaica, Netherlands Antilles, Nevis, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago
- North America: Canada, United States
- Oceania: Fiji, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea

As can be imagined, a wide variety of programs are operating throughout the library community. For example, Aruba, Hong Kong, Latvia, Moldova, Mongolia and Uganda have all exhibitions on HIV/AIDS in library buildings. These exhibitions have included poster displays but also book displays and leaflet dispensers. Making available leaflets is a popular way of raising awareness of HIV/AIDS in the library community, especially in Europe, and libraries in Denmark, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, and Sweden have all taken this option to publicise the subject. India has also arranged the distribution of HIV/AIDS awareness leaflets in its libraries. Libraries in some countries have arranged more in-depth activities to publicise the subject. In Macedonia libraries have hosted discussion sessions and workshops, as have libraries in India, the Philippines, Uzbekistan and

Zambia. Syrian libraries have hosted lectures on the subject. Hong Kong's libraries have set up websites with useful information.

Partnerships with health authorities are also a common way to raise awareness of HIV, and libraries in Azerbaijan, Ireland, and Syria have partnered with local organisations but also international bodies such as the World Health Organisation and the United Nations Development Programme. Libraries in the United Kingdom have stepped outside of their borders by partnering with health libraries in developing countries for educational and support purposes.

### HIV/AIDS Information for Members of the Community Unable to Read

In comparison with the above results, only 28 out of 79 respondents (just over a third) have made efforts to supply HIV/AIDS information to those unable to read. The illiterate parts of the community are therefore perhaps not being as best served by libraries as they might be. Outside of North America, only in Africa, where 9 out of 17 respondents have been involved in related programmes, does there appear to be an effort to reach this part of the population. Only approximately 20% of Asian respondents and about 30% of European and Latin American respondents have worked with HIV/AIDS and the illiterate.

Countries where libraries have been involved in providing HIV/AIDS information to those unable to read:

- Africa: Botswana, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia
- Asia: India, Kazakhstan, Philippines, Syria

- Europe: Denmark, Italy, Moldova, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom–
- Latin America/Caribbean: Bahamas, Cuba, Nevis, Peru
- North America: Canada, United States
- Oceania: Fiji, Papua New Guinea

As with programmes raising awareness of HIV/AIDS, there are a variety of approaches used to help members of the community unable to read get information on this important subject. Radio broadcasts are used in the Philippines to raise awareness of the subject with those who cannot read, while in Uganda libraries have been involved in screening movies and visual presentations to make sure HIV/AIDS information is available to as many members of the community as possible. While Swedish libraries make spoken word HIV information available on CD or tape, libraries in the United Kingdom have translated resources into ethnic languages for users struggling with English, and refugees are particularly targeted in Azerbaijan (whose country report provides great details about HIV/AIDS activities).

Other respondents, more often in Europe, reported a more informal approach to the supplying of HIV/AIDS information. Respondents from Denmark, for example, spoke of materials being available as part of the general collection, and Switzerland's response stated that information was available in libraries just the same as any other subject. In countries where HIV/AIDS is less of an issue this is perhaps unsurprising - overall, it would appear that libraries are more involved with a broader HIV/AIDS awareness programme in Africa, where 9 of the 17 respondents have been involved in both basic awareness activities

and also in getting information to members of the community unable to read. 12 other countries, from every region, have also been involved in both types of effort.

While these programmes are indeed impressive the results show that there have been fewer efforts on behalf of members of the community unable to read. Some countries, however, have successfully managed to combine their efforts and as such could serve as useful templates for countries wishing to expand their HIV/AIDS awareness programmes to reach all of the community. African libraries are the leaders in this area, and 9 out of the 17 respondents to the questionnaire have been able to create, or partner with, broad-based efforts to ensure that no member of the community is deprived of information on HIV/AIDS. These countries are listed below, and further discussion of their activities is included after the section on women's literacy.

- Africa: Botswana, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia
- Asia: India, Kazakhstan, Philippines, Syria
- Europe: Denmark, Italy, Sweden, United Kingdom
- North America: Canada, United States
- Oceania: Fiji, Papua New Guinea

### Women's Literacy and Access to Information

The final special issue addressed in this year's World Report concerned the role of libraries in promoting women's literacy and providing access to information for women. Libraries have the opportunity, and indeed a social responsibility, to offer equal access to information to all members of their community, in-

cluding all those whose circumstances have left them unable to take full advantage of opportunities on offer in society. This year's World Report decided to focus on the issue of women's access to information as women in many parts of the world experience unequal opportunities to get the information they need, at times because of a lack of basic literacy skills. As can be seen from the variety of initiatives described in the summary below, libraries can offer a way to redress this imbalance and the questionnaire offered the opportunity to get information and provide examples from countries where the library community is taking the initiative.

The first part of Question 7 asked if libraries in the respondent's country had special programmes focusing on the promotion of women's literacy. The second part of the question asked respondents if libraries in their country specifically promoted women's access to social information, financial information, education, health, and family planning. Both questions asked respondents to provide examples of any programmes or schemes.

The overall results are displayed in Table 15 and Table 16 below:

DO LIBRARIES IN YOUR COUNTRY HAVE SPECIAL PROGRAMMES FOCUSING ON THE PROMOTION OF WOMEN'S LITERACY?	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES ANSWERING:
	2005 (82 COUNTRIES*)
Yes	28 (34%)
No	54 (66%)

\* No answer from Belgium, Czech Republic and Nicaragua

Table 15: Libraries and promotion of women's literacy

DO LIBRARIES IN YOUR COUNTRY SPECIFICALLY PROMOTE WOMEN’S ACCESS TO THE FOLLOWING TOPICS: SOCIAL INFORMATION, THE ECONOMY, EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND FAMILY PLANNING?	NUMBER OF COUNTRIES ANSWERING:
	2005 (78 COUNTRIES*)
Yes	29 (37%)
No	49 (63%)

\* No answer from Belgium, Czech Republic, Egypt, New Caledonia, Nicaragua and Uganda

Table 16: Libraries and women’s access to information

Table 17 below shows the regional breakdown of results:

		AFRICA	ASIA	EUROPE	LATIN AMERICA/ CARIBBEAN	NORTH AMERICA	OCEANIA	TOTAL
LIBRARIES HAVE WOMEN’S LITERACY PROGRAMMES?	Yes	6	10	4	5	1	2	28
	No	11	8	21	9	1	4	54
LIBRARIES SPECIFICALLY PROMOTE WOMEN’S ACCESS TO INFORMATION?	Yes	5	6	9	7	1	1	29
	No	10	12	16	6	1	4	49

Table 17: Libraries and information resources for women - regional distribution of responses

Compared to the results for Question 6 on libraries and HIV/AIDS awareness programmes, the number of libraries worldwide choosing to focus specifically on women’s issues is significantly smaller. A third of respondents indicated that libraries in their country have been involved in programmes focusing on women’s literacy, while just over a third have libraries that specifically promote women’s access to information on topics such as education, health and family planning. Asian libraries appear to be the most focused on women’s literacy, with 10 out of 18 respondents

detailing a programme that tackles this issue. Elsewhere however, it is generally half or less of a region’s respondents that indicate libraries are involved in this area. Only 4 out of 21 European respondents (Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, UK) said their libraries helped promote women’s literacy.

Libraries and Women’s Literacy Programmes

The responses show that women’s literacy projects come in all different shapes and sizes, from local initiatives to regionally and nationally co-ordinated

projects. The following 28 respondents indicated that libraries have been involved in women’s literacy programmes in their countries:

- Africa: Egypt, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia
- Asia: Azerbaijan, Hong Kong, India, Israel, Kazakhstan, Philippines, Singapore, Syria, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan
- Europe: Denmark, Germany, Netherlands, United Kingdom
- Latin America/Caribbean: Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago

- North America: United States
- Oceania: Fiji, Papua New Guinea

These projects chose a variety of different focuses. In Azerbaijan, libraries have been involved in programs where computer technology is the focus of literacy projects for women in the country, and a spotlight on IT and literacy can also be found in library programmes in Germany and Hong Kong. In Uganda, on the other hand, libraries are providing print materials to support women's literacy projects in the country. Libraries can be seen working in smaller initiatives, such as in Israel where literacy programmes are run with a focus on single mothers and the importance of reading to a child, but also as partners in wider projects to promote literacy for women - Indian libraries are part of the country's 'Total Literacy' mission while in Singapore libraries work alongside the WISH programme. In Zambia, libraries partner with local NGOs to help women learn to read.

There are also outreach projects running alongside programmes run in library buildings. German libraries run outreach initiatives for women unable to read, and libraries in Syria use mobile libraries and rural net projects to help women learn to read and access information. In Latin America, Peru's libraries have worked with the Women's Ministry to support libraries in rural and low-income neighbourhoods with reading materials for women.

There are also other literacy programs run in libraries. The response from Trinidad and Tobago mentions that many libraries in the country hold weekly literacy classes, some of which are aimed at women. One of the most impressive reports comes from Chile

where, like in the Philippines, libraries have been involved in International Women's day celebrations to promote access to information for women. In Chile Mother's Day celebrations are linked to women's literacy in libraries, and women are specially invited to literacy programmes in the library on that day - so far over 60,000 women have participated in the sessions.

### Women's Access to Information Programmes

A variety of programmes also exist within the International library community to increase women's access to information. 29 out of 78 respondents indicated that libraries in their country had been involved in efforts to increase women's access to information on social issues, money, education, health or family planning. The region with the strongest response to this question was Latin America and the Caribbean with 7 out of 13 respondents making efforts in this area. Libraries in 9 out of 25 European countries also had information access programmes for women, just over a third of the region's respondents, while exactly a third of African and Asian respondents indicated the same.

Countries where libraries have been involved in promoting women's access to information:

- Africa: Ethiopia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Swaziland, Zambia
- Asia: Azerbaijan, Hong Kong, Kazakhstan, Philippines, Syria, Uzbekistan
- Europe: Germany, Ireland, Macedonia, Moldova, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Ukraine, United Kingdom

- Latin America/Caribbean: Bahamas, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago
- North America: Canada
- Oceania: Fiji

The variety of library projects for women's information access in these countries is also extremely broad, ranging from training days for businesswomen to information sessions for young mothers. Many libraries choose to focus on access to health information for women, in particular pregnant women. In Europe, Macedonia's libraries run training sessions for women who want access to information on healthcare or education. In Costa Rica, libraries offer workshops, seminars and talks which are aimed at pregnant adolescents. Following on from this theme, they have also had workshops for mothers on information access in school libraries.

The responses also indicate that libraries can be an important community institution to bridge the communications gap for women who have just arrived in the country. In the United Kingdom for example, there are women's reading groups and women only Internet training sessions for ethnic minorities and recently arrived immigrants. Migrant women in particular are helped in the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden, with programmes focusing on women's rights to information of all kinds. Programmes in Norwegian libraries are in partnership with local integration projects.

Despite the impressive variety of projects described in the questionnaire responses, the fact is that only just over a third of respondents have libraries in their

country that are providing programmes - literacy or information-access based - specifically for women. There is obviously much still for libraries to do in this crucial area. In some countries, however, libraries are managing to advocate and work towards both women's literacy and increased access to information. Projects in these countries would appear to be broad-based and supportive of women's access to information at all levels:

- Africa: Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Swaziland, Zambia
- Asia: Azerbaijan, Hong Kong, Kazakhstan, Philippines, Syria, Uzbekistan
- Europe: Germany, Netherlands, United Kingdom
- Latin America/Caribbean: Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Trinidad and Tobago
- Oceania: Fiji

### HIV/AIDS and Women's Issues: Future Work for Libraries?

When Questions 6 and 7 are looked at together, it appears that there is quite a bit of room for increased library activity in HIV/AIDS programmes and women's issues. Some countries appear to have successful programmes dealing with all aspects of these topics but others have undertaken no initiatives to speak off. In fact, 28 respondents out of 78 who filled in all of these questions (36%) indicated that libraries in their country had not been involved with any of these issues. These respondents come from all over the world, and all levels of development:

- Africa: Benin, Cape Verde, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mauritius, Tanzania
- Asia: China, Japan, Georgia, Nepal, Pakistan, Rus-



sia, Sri Lanka

- Europe: Andorra, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovenia, Spain
- Latin America/Caribbean: Ecuador, Mexico
- Oceania: Australia, New Zealand

On the other hand, 10 respondents indicated the opposite, that libraries in their country had been involved in programmes on both aspects of HIV/AIDS and women's issues that the questionnaire enquired about:

- Africa: Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Swaziland, Zambia
- Asia: Kazakhstan, Philippines, Syria
- Europe: United Kingdom
- Latin America/Caribbean: Cuba
- Oceania: Fiji

It is obvious that the need for information on HIV/AIDS is likely to be greater in some parts of the world than others, and that opportunities for women regarding information access will be more forthcoming in some countries rather than others. However, the ten countries where libraries have been involved in programmes for both these issues come from all around the world and from different ends of the scale in terms of wealth or political inclination. The idea that these issues disappear the further a country develops is a nice one, but one that is flawed. Libraries exist to provide their community with the broadest range of information desired and, while it is a start to place that information on the shelves or on a computer, sometimes library authorities must be prepared to advocate on behalf of these issues and engage the community more actively. The examples of HIV/

AIDS awareness and women's literacy programmes found in the country reports show that some libraries are doing just this, and it is to be hoped that their activities might be an inspiration for libraries in other countries in the future.

### **Codes of Ethics and the Implementation of IFLA Policies**

A code of ethics offers a library association a chance to set out its policies on information access clearly. It gives the opportunity to state clearly the professional guidelines for librarians and other library employees and sets out, in general terms, the standards and duties which it is reasonable to expect a professional to observe. Because a librarian makes judgements that are based on professional and ethical considerations everyday, it can be helpful to have a document stating the profession's viewpoint on issues relating to information provision. Where a code of ethics will be adopted at a national level, often by a national library association, IFLA documents such as the Internet Manifesto and the Glasgow Declaration serve to assert the position of the international library community regarding access to information on the Internet and intellectual freedom respectively.

The adoption of codes of ethics, the IFLA Internet Manifesto and The Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom was first looked at in the 2003 World Report. This year's questionnaire asked the same questions as in 2003 in order to assess any change in the past two years.

Question 8 asked respondents if the library association in their country had adopted a code of ethics. If



a code had been adopted they were asked to describe how it was implemented in daily work; if they had not they were asked if they planned to adopt a code in the next two years - but it must be noted, as in 2003, not all respondents chose to answer this part of the question. Table 18 below shows the overall adoption of a code of ethics compared to the 2003 results, and Table 19 shows the regional distribution of this year's responses to the question:

TYPE OF RESPONSE	COUNTRIES RESPONDING	
	2005 (79 COUNTRIES*)	2003 (85 COUNTRIES**)
LIBRARY ASSOCIATION HAS A CODE OF ETHICS	46 (58%)	38 (45%)
DO NOT HAVE A CODE OF ETHICS	33 (42%)	47 (55%)
INTEND TO ADOPT ONE IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS	21	24
DO NOT INTEND TO ADOPT ONE IN NEXT TWO YEARS	9	18

\* No response from Angola, Ethiopia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Seychelles

\*\* No response from Columbia, Kuwait and the Netherlands Antilles

**Table 18: Library associations and the adoption of codes of ethics**

Overall, the situation found in 2003 has practically reversed - 58% of respondents to the 2005 survey now have a code of ethics. There is an anomaly however: Egypt stated in 2003 that they did have a code of ethics, but in 2005 they state that they do not. This situation is explained by a different respondent this year. In 2001 The Bibliotheca Alexandrina replied and indicated a code of ethics was adopted. This year's respondent points out that this code only applies to the librarians at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina.

21 respondents have indicated they intend to adopt a code in the next two years but when it is considered that in 2003 some respondents (Aruba, Cape Verde, Germany, Ireland, New Caledonia, Uganda, Uzbekistan) indicated the same thing but have made no progress since, it becomes apparent that the process can become protracted. On the other hand, some respondents who indicated the same thing in 2003 have followed through on their response - Azerbaijan, Czech Republic, Costa Rica, Philippines, Poland, Russia and Swaziland have all adopted codes of ethics since the time of the last World Report. On top of this, a number of countries have moved from not

HAVE A CODE OF ETHICS?	AFRICA	ASIA	EUROPE	LATIN AMERICA/ CARIBBEAN	NORTH AMERICA	OCEANIA	TOTAL
YES	6	11	19	6	2	2	46
No	7	7	8	7	0	4	33
INTEND TO ADOPT	5	4	4	5	0	3	21
DO NOT INTEND TO ADOPT	2	4	2	1	0	0	9

**Table 19: The adoption of codes of ethics - regional distribution**

wanting to adopt a code of ethics in 2003 to indicating that they will adopt in the next two years. Ghana, India, Fiji, Mongolia, Trinidad and Tobago all fall into this category.

It therefore appears, based on a pure comparison with 2003 results, that the adoption of codes of ethics by national library associations is increasing. 8 of the 25 countries that did not contribute this year (Bosnia/Herzegovina, Bulgaria, France, Gambia, Panama, South Africa, Thailand and Uruguay) indicated in 2003 that they too have adopted codes of ethics so more IFLA members than surveyed here have codes. As in 2003 however, there are still IFLA members who have not responded to the questionnaires and those readers who wish to learn more about the development of codes of ethics and professional conduct should refer to *The Ethics of Librarianship: An International Survey* edited by Dr Robert W. Vaagan, IFLA and KG Saur Verlag, 2002.

Question 9 referred to the IFLA Internet Manifesto and its adoption by national library associations. The IFLA Internet Manifesto was adopted unanimously by the Council of IFLA in August 2002 and at the time of the last World Report in 2003 24 countries

had adopted it. Question 9 asked if the Manifesto had been adopted and if it was implemented in daily work. If it had not been adopted they were asked if they planned to adopt it in the next two years but again not all respondents chose to answer this part of the question. Table 20 below shows the overall results in comparison with 2003, and Table 21 shows the regional distribution of adoption:

TYPE OF RESPONSE	COUNTRIES RESPONDING	
	2005 (77 COUNTRIES*)	2003 (79 COUNTRIES**)
HAVE ADOPTED THE INTERNET MANIFESTO	27 (35%)	24 (30%)
HAVE NOT ADOPTED THE INTERNET MANIFESTO	50 (65%)	55 (70%)
ACCOMPANYING TEXT	29	N/A
INTEND TO ADOPT IT IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS	38	36
DO NOT INTEND TO ADOPT IT IN NEXT TWO YEARS	6	6

\* No response from Angola, Belgium, Ethiopia, Ireland, Philippines, Seychelles, Syria

\*\*\* No response from Aruba, Benin, Columbia, Finland, Guatemala, Kenya, Kuwait, the Netherlands Antilles and Swaziland

**Table 20: Adoption of the IFLA Internet Manifesto**

ADOPTED INTERNET MANIFESTO?	AFRICA	ASIA	EUROPE	LATIN AMERICA/ CARIBBEAN	NORTH AMERICA	OCEANIA	TOTAL
YES	1	4	17	3	1	1	27
No	13	12	8	11	1	5	50
INTEND TO ADOPT	10	10	5	10	0	3	38
DO NOT INTEND TO ADOPT	1	1	1	2	0	1	6

**Table 21: Adoption of the IFLA Internet Manifesto - regional distribution**

There has been a slight increase since the last World Report regarding the number of respondents who have adopted the Internet Manifesto and also the number of people who intend to adopt it in the next two years. The 27 countries that have indicated that they have adopted the Manifesto are also joined by Belarus and Bulgaria - who did not respond to the questionnaire this year but indicated in 2003 they had adopted the Manifesto. Nevertheless, only just over a third of those responding to the World Report this year have adopted the Manifesto since its launch in 2002.

Encouragingly, 8 countries indicated in 2003 that they were planning to adopt the Manifesto and the 2005 report confirms that they have followed through. Azerbaijan, Guam, Japan, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Slovenia and Switzerland have all now adopted the Manifesto. Of the new contributors to the 2005 World Report Cuba and Israel have already adopted the Manifesto and there are 13 more newcomers who intend to do so.

Like with codes of ethics though, there are also countries where no progress has been made since 2003 regarding Manifesto adoption. 13 countries (Aruba, Botswana, Cape Verde, China, Costa Rica, Estonia, Fiji, Georgia, Ghana, Nepal, New Caledonia, Serbia and Montenegro and Uzbekistan) all indicated in 2003 that they would adopt the Manifesto in the following two years but these countries have given the same response in this year's report, revealing a lack of progress. Finally there are also further anomalies to consider: in 2003 Hong Kong, India, Mongolia, the Netherlands and Trinidad and Tobago indicated that they had adopted the Manifesto; in 2005 they state

that they have not. The Indian Respondent confirmed that the Manifesto has not been adopted, making the 2003 response wrong. The Netherlands response can be explained by the fact that in 2003 the Dutch library community had a general discussion about adoption and agreed upon it (this is also true for the Glasgow Declaration), so the 2003 report answered yes. The two policies were not officially adopted however, and the umbrella association for libraries, FOBID, now has to move to a formal position on adoption. Until this happens, the Netherlands cannot be considered to have adopted the Internet Manifesto nor the Glasgow Declaration, although it is apparent librarians in the country have taken on board the principles of both documents. The situation in the other countries - where all the responding institutions are the same as in 2003 - was unable to be clarified at the time of printing, and the responses indicate some confusion regarding the Internet Manifesto's adoption and implementation. The extent to which the library community in each country is aware of the document is unclear.

The final question of the questionnaire looked at the adoption of The Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom proclaimed by the Council of IFLA in August 2002. As with the Internet Manifesto, the question asked if the Glasgow Declaration had been adopted and if it was implemented in daily work. If it had not been adopted they were asked if they planned to adopt it in the next two years. Again not all respondents chose to answer this part of the question. Table 22 below shows the overall adoption:

TYPE OF RESPONSE	COUNTRIES RESPONDING	
	2005 (76 COUNTRIES*)	2003 (82 COUNTRIES**)
HAVE ADOPTED THE GLASGOW DECLARATION	24 (32%)	20 (24%)
HAVE NOT ADOPTED THE GLASGOW DECLARATION	52 (68%)	62 (76%)
INTEND TO ADOPT IT IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS	37	44
DO NOT INTEND TO ADOPT IT IN NEXT TWO YEARS	8	9

\* No response from Angola, Belgium, Botswana, Ethiopia, Moldova, Philippines, Seychelles, Sweden

\*\* No response from Belarus, Columbia, Finland, Kenya, Kuwait and the Netherlands Antilles

**Table 22: Adoption of the Glasgow Declaration**

Table 23 below shows the regional distribution of adoption:

ADOPTED GLASGOW DECLARATION?	AFRICA	ASIA	EUROPE	LATIN AMERICA/ CARIBBEAN	NORTH AMERICA	OCEANIA	TOTAL
Yes	1	3	14	5	1	0	24
No	12	14	10	9	1	6	52
INTEND TO ADOPT	9	9	7	9	0	3	37
DO NOT INTEND TO ADOPT	1	4	2	0	0	1	8

**Table 23: Adoption of the Glasgow Declaration - regional distribution**

As with the Internet Manifesto, there are a slightly higher number of respondents who have adopted the Glasgow Declaration in this year's World Report. 32% of respondents have adopted the Declaration, as opposed to 25% in 2003. It is worth noting that of the 2003 respondents who did not respond this year, Vati-

can City has also adopted the Declaration. This year's figures are not very high but there is some encouragement in the results. 10 countries (Azerbaijan, Chile, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Japan, Lithuania, Macedonia, Poland, Russia, USA) followed up on their 2003 indications and have since adopted the Declaration. Furthermore, 17 of the countries responding for the first time indicated that they would adopt the Declaration in the next two years.

Like with codes of Ethics and the Internet Manifesto though, it can be difficult to move the adoption process along. Cape Verde, China, Estonia, Fiji, Georgia, Ireland, New Caledonia and Uzbekistan all gave the same answers this year as they did in 2003 - that they had not yet adopted the Declaration but would do so within two years. It appears that there is often much work to be done to complete the adoption of an IFLA document - or the priority is not as high as might be hoped.

Anomalies are also present in the results for this question, as with the previous two: four countries (Hong Kong, Mexico, Mongolia, and the Netherlands) stated in 2003 that they had adopted the Declaration but in 2005 they state they have not. The responding institutions were the same in all cases. Mexico has clarified its position and the 2003

response is wrong - the Declaration will hopefully be adopted in the next year. The case of the Netherlands is explained above but the situation in the other countries is unclear at the time of writing - which makes it difficult to come to a final figure regarding the number of countries which have adopted the Declaration.

### **Conclusion**

This year's World Report has yielded far more information than in 2003. Respondents have been prepared to add more textual comments to their questionnaire answers and the addition of a research student to the work team has enabled third party sources to be investigated and relevant information incorporated into the work. The fruit of this approach can be seen in the detailed country reports. The amount of information forthcoming on the special topics - Anti-terror legislation, HIV/AIDS awareness and women's literacy - has meant we have been able to detail the situations facing libraries in IFLA member countries and also to supply examples of the types of programmes that libraries are running to improve access to information for their users.

When looking at the overall trends it is important to recognise the continuing improvement in Internet access in the international library community. Compared to 2003, more libraries are offering Internet access to their users in both public and research libraries, and more of this access is becoming free of charge. This represents great news for library users in the countries where access is increasing. Despite this, the responses from Asia, and Africa in particular, also indicate that the problem of the 'digital divide' is still

very much in existence, and libraries in many countries continue to struggle to provide even basic access to the Internet due to the problems of poor quality infrastructure and high costs. Hopefully future reports will show that the gap between IFLA member countries able to provide very high levels of access and those just starting to provide Internet facilities will continue to narrow. To this end it must be hoped that extra funding for countries seeking to increase Internet access in libraries does not dry up because, as described above, the states that have supplied extra funds will often see increased, cheaper access for library users in a relatively short space of time. While it can be said that we are slowly heading in the right direction in terms of increasing access, investment in infrastructure must be continued to maintain momentum.

A worrying development this year is an increased tolerance of Internet filtering software on behalf of respondents. The issue of providing safe Internet access for children is fuelling this situation and providing problems for librarians, even in countries where the library association is not in favour of using filtering software. Every respondent who indicated a motivation for using filtering software included protection of children. Resolving this situation without impairing adults' information seeking is a priority. Despite its recent development, filtering software continues to suffer from the problems of overblocking and underblocking websites, a situation which inevitably leads to times when information seeking needs go unmet. As countries with previously low Internet access continue to expand library Internet facilities then issues that some of the more developed countries have faced (or continue to face - Finland, Jamaica and

the United Kingdom were revising library association policies on filtering at the time of writing) will stray into the path of librarians. Internet filtering is still a major issue for librarians to consider, regardless of increasing access levels. How it is dealt with is often a local decision, based on differing perceptions of how the Internet is used, but IFLA policy documents such as the Internet Manifesto, and the forthcoming IFLA/ UNESCO Internet Guidelines can help librarians in all parts of the world consider the impact filtering can have on information seeking choices.

Regarding the first of this year's special issues, it can be seen that the effects of anti-terror legislation are not weighing heavily on the minds of many respondents. Despite this, contributions from Germany, Japan, Kenya, the Netherlands and Syria all show that libraries and their users can be affected by anti-terror laws, and that there may be continuing consequences for freedom of access to information and user privacy as the war on terror goes on. As Marc Lampson's paper points out, the situation in the United States is particularly worrying for librarians at the current time. Unfortunately, at the time of writing, it is not out of the question that the PATRIOT Act provisions relating to libraries will remain in place and may even be strengthened. This is something to worry all those concerned with intellectual freedom and the privacy of information-seeking decisions and is a situation we must continue to keep a close watch on.

It is the same situation regarding violations of intellectual freedom. More respondents than in 2003 felt able to provide descriptions of incidents which affect library users and their access to information, and many worrying tales can be found in the individual

country reports. While some respondents - and Barbara Jones' paper - reported encouraging news relating to improved freedom of information laws, others provided descriptions of media crackdowns and governmental interference. Perhaps the most worrying incident has occurred in Turkmenistan, where the President has closed libraries on the grounds that nobody reads. This action appears to be the latest in a long line of activities designed to restrict access to information and reduce ideological competition in the country. The Turkmen response to the World Report is a stark reminder to us that in some countries of the world intellectual freedom is hanging by a thread or non-existing. Continued vigilance and aid to our colleagues in countries such as Turkmenistan is essential if freedom of access to information is to be defended around the world.

The final two special issues addressed in this World Report were HIV/AIDS awareness and women's literacy. It is apparent from the questionnaire responses that there is plenty of room for increased action on behalf of libraries in these areas. As pointed out above, some countries of the world are experiencing more of a need for information about HIV/AIDS for example, but this does not mean that libraries in less affected areas should neglect the opportunity to provide their users with the broadest range of information desired. It was encouraging to see some countries providing programmes in all our areas of special focus but the overall number was very low, far outweighed by the number of countries who had made no efforts to address the issues in their libraries. As Al Kagan's paper on social responsibilities shows, libraries have an opportunity to make a difference in their communities - hopefully future World Reports will

show more libraries getting involved on the ground.

While it is encouraging to see more library associations adopting codes of ethics since the last World Report, 70% of respondents have not yet adopted the Glasgow Declaration, and 65% have not adopted the Internet Manifesto. In the past two years there does not seem to have been much progress, based on this sample of respondents, in getting the two documents to become part of library culture in IFLA member countries. IFLA/FAIFE has a great opportunity to remedy this situation with a series of workshops planned for late 2005 and 2006 where discussions shall centre on the creation of guidelines for implementing the Internet Manifesto. It is to be hoped that these workshops will build on the success of the one session already held in Kampala, Uganda in 2004, and help librarians to put the theory of freedom of access to information, especially online, into practice.

The ideal of freedom of access to information that will be discussed at such workshops is hopefully one that will remain in the focus of the reader after reading this report. The 2005 World Report clearly shows that while freedom of access to information is slowly improving in some areas, most obviously provision of Internet access, any gains are fragile things when measured next to the threats that libraries in many countries face. The uncertainty that has resulted from

the terrorist attacks on the United States in 2001 is still with us, in the form of restrictive anti-terror legislation, along with the ability of certain governments to negatively influence the flow of information within their borders - whether through the closing of libraries or the filtering and monitoring of Internet access.

The implementation of IFLA's new three-pillar model for operation: society, members and profession will make it possible to place stronger emphasis on issues concerning the condition and constraint of the environment in which libraries are operating worldwide. It is the editors' hope that the World Report 2005 will contribute to the advocating and lobbying of our professional values in the support of intellectual freedom and equal participation in an inclusive knowledge and information society. We also hope that this report will become an eye opener of the social responsibilities facing libraries around the world. The HIV/AIDS epidemic and women's literacy are concrete examples in this regard and the World Report this year clearly demonstrates the need for libraries' active involvement and support.

## Notes

1 State control of the Internet in China (Amnesty International, 2002). Available: <http://web.amnesty.org/library/Index/engasa170072002?OpenDocument&of=COUNTRIES\CHINA>

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# IFLA/FAIFE World Report 2005 Questionnaire

## IFLA/FAIFE World Report 2005 Questionnaire

### Background

Some of the topics addressed in this questionnaire are meant to follow-up on the IFLA/FAIFE World Report 2003, whereas others are new. To begin with, we would like information on the number of public and research libraries in your country so as to give context to other answers in the questionnaire. The questionnaire is then split into three sections:

- Section 1 follows up on the issues we investigated in 2003: the Digital Divide; Internet filtering; and the financial costs of accessing the Internet.
- Section 2 investigates new issues for the World Report, some of which focus specifically on areas of social responsibility. These issues include: anti-terror legislation and its effects on user privacy in libraries; violations of intellectual freedom and the effects of corruption; HIV/AIDS awareness; and women and freedom of access to information.
- Finally, Section 3 updates the findings of the 2003 report by assessing adoption of the IFLA Internet Manifesto, the Glasgow Declaration, and codes of ethics.

### Instructions:

Please fill out your country below and answer the following questions. Click the left mouse button in the appropriate box each time you are asked to make a choice. Where asked to type an answer, please use the grey text area provided. When complete, save the document and send it as an e-mail attachment to: [sha@db.dk](mailto:sha@db.dk)

### Respondent's Country:

### Respondent's Institution/Organisation:

(The FAIFE Office will treat all responses with the utmost confidentiality. Should you wish your institution/organisation to remain anonymous you may leave this text box blank)

### Estimated number of public libraries in your country:

(We are interested in the number of public library service points, including branch libraries, in your country)

### Estimated number of research libraries in your country:

(Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions such as schools and universities. We realise this is a difficult figure to estimate, but appreciate your response)

## Section 1: Libraries and the Internet

### 1. Digital Divide

*The term 'Digital Divide' describes the wide division between those who have real access to information and communications technology and are using it effectively, and those who do not. Through provision of appropriate technology and training, libraries can contribute to the fight against poverty at a local level by offering access to information resources.*

- a) In your estimate, what percentage of all public libraries\* and all research libraries\*\* in your country offers Internet access to users?

#### Public Libraries

#### Research Libraries

81-100%	<input type="checkbox"/>	81-100%	<input type="checkbox"/>
61-80%	<input type="checkbox"/>	61-80%	<input type="checkbox"/>
41-60%	<input type="checkbox"/>	41-60%	<input type="checkbox"/>
21-40%	<input type="checkbox"/>	21-40%	<input type="checkbox"/>
Less than 20%	<input type="checkbox"/>	Less than 20%	<input type="checkbox"/>

\* All public library service points, including branch libraries

\*\* Research libraries are taken to be the libraries of educational institutions, such as schools and universities

2. Filtering and blocking of information

Filtering and blocking of information occurs when software is placed on personal computers or on a network to prevent users accessing information considered harmful in some way.

- a) Is the library association in your country in favour of filtering information on library Internet terminals?
- Yes ☐
- Yes, to a certain degree (e.g. for children) ☐
- No ☐
- b) Is the use of filtering software widespread in your country's libraries?
- Yes ☐
- Yes, to a certain degree (e.g. on children's terminals) ☐
- No ☐
- c) If yes or yes, to a certain degree, what is the motivation for the use of filtering software? (Please tick all that apply)
- Protection of children ☐
- National Security (e.g. terrorism) ☐
- Safeguard religious values ☐
- Safeguard national ethos/culture ☐
- Crime (e.g. gambling) ☐
- Safeguard public morality ☐
- Other (please specify):

3. Financial barriers

Financial barriers to accessing information on the Internet include paying to use computers connected to the Internet, or to use online information resources made available in libraries via subscription.

- a) Is it free of charge for library users to access the Internet on library computers?
- Yes, in all libraries ☐
- Yes, in public libraries only ☐
- Yes, in research libraries only ☐
- No ☐
- b) Has the state or other library authorities made any extra funding available for Internet access in the library system in the last two years?
- Yes ☐
- No ☐

## Section 2: Special Issues

### 4. User Privacy and Anti-terror Legislation

*Information privacy is defined as the right of individuals to determine when, how, and to what extent they will share personal information about themselves with others. User privacy is related to rights and values such as liberty, freedom of expression and freedom of association.*

*User privacy is an issue now more than ever in the post-9/11 world. Parts of the USA PATRIOT Act, for example, allow law enforcement agencies access to records kept by libraries in the United States. This includes all 'business records' collected by the library, such as records of print or audio-visual materials borrowed or records of Internet use on library computers.*

- a) Has anti-terror legislation been passed in your country that in your opinion adversely affects library users' intellectual freedom – such as allowing law enforcement agencies access to library user records?
- If so, please describe this legislation and its effects on libraries, particularly any specific examples in which:
    - Users have expressed a reluctance to use library materials or facilities because of the legislation OR
    - Users have actually refused to use library materials or facilities based on that legislation
- b) If your country has such legislation now or it is proposed, do you think it likely that the legislation will impact on user privacy?
- c) Do you think that keeping user records affects the freedom of expression of the individual Internet library user?
- Yes ☐
- No ☐

### 5. Violations of Intellectual Freedom

*One of the aims of the World Report series is to report on incidents and violations of freedom of access to information in general. Incidents of censorship such as book banning, or the effects of corruption on information access, are of particular interest to FAIFE as it helps us to monitor the extent of freedom of access to information in the international library community.*

Have any incidents occurred in your country in the last two years that adversely affect freedom of access to information or freedom of expression? If so, please describe the incidents and the effects they have had on access to information in libraries.

Please list any information resources that might further explain the situation facing freedom of access to information in your country

### 6. HIV/AIDS Awareness

*The FAIFE programme at the 2006 IFLA World Congress in Seoul - and particularly in Durban in 2007 - will concentrate on libraries and HIV/AIDS awareness. Libraries provide an essential supporting role to HIV/AIDS education programmes as trusted community institutions providing access to health information. Libraries can therefore play an important role in encouraging the development of skills and attitudes that can limit the spread and impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Publicising the work of libraries – anywhere – to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS is crucial if we are to improve services to parts of the population suffering from the disease.*

- a) Have libraries in your country been involved in any programmes to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS?

Yes ☐

If yes, how?

No ☐

- b) Have libraries in your country made efforts to provide HIV/AIDS information to members of the community unable to read?

Yes ☐

If so, please describe these efforts:

No ☐

**7. Women and Freedom of Access to Information**

*Information is recognised as the foundation of empowerment for humanity and a major contributor to economic growth. Freedom of access to information enables people to control their personal life and contribute to democratic development. This mandates librarians to consciously engage in social responsibility through the services they provide - which in some parts of the world means focusing specifically on the promotion of women's literacy and access to information.*

- a) Do libraries in your country have special programmes focusing on the promotion of women's literacy?

Yes ☐

If yes, please give details of any programmes:

No ☐

- b) Do libraries in your country specifically promote women's access to the following topics: social information, economy, education, health, and family planning?

Yes ☐

If yes, please give details of any promotional activities:

No ☐

**9. The IFLA Internet Manifesto**

- a) Has your library association adopted the IFLA Internet Manifesto?

Yes ☐

No ☐

- b) If yes, could you please describe how libraries in your country have implemented the manifesto in their daily work in the past two years?

- c) If not, does your library association intend to adopt the manifesto in the next two years?

Yes ☐

No ☐

The IFLA Internet Manifesto can be found at: <http://www.ifla.org/III/misc/im-e.htm>

**Section 3: Ethics and IFLA Initiatives****8. Ethics**

- a) Has your library association adopted a code of ethics?

Yes ☐

If yes, please state the year the code was adopted:

No ☐

- b) If yes, could you please describe how libraries in your country have implemented the code in their daily work in the past two years?

- c) If there is no code, does your library association intend to adopt one in the next two years?

Yes ☐

No ☐

**10. The IFLA Glasgow Declaration**

- a) Has your library association adopted the IFLA Glasgow Declaration on libraries, information services and intellectual freedom?

Yes ☐

No ☐

- b) If yes, could you please describe how libraries in your country have implemented the Declaration in their daily work in the past two years?

- c) If not, does your library association intend to adopt the Declaration in the next two years?

Yes ☐

No ☐

The IFLA Glasgow Declaration can be found at:  
<http://www.ifla.org/faife/policy/iflastat/glddeclar.html>

# IFLA/FAIFE World Report 2005 Questionnaire

**IFLA/FAIFE World Report 2005 Questionnaire**  
*Cuestionario para el Reporte Mundial de 2005 de IFLA/FAIFE*

**Trasfondo:**

Algunos de los tópicos discutidos en este cuestionario dan seguimiento al Reporte Mundial de 2003 de IFLA/FAIFE, otros tópicos son nuevos. Para comenzar, nos gustaría recibir información acerca del número de bibliotecas públicas y de investigación en su país para darle contexto a otras preguntas en este cuestionario. El cuestionario está dividido en tres secciones:

- La sección 1 le da seguimiento a los asuntos investigados en 2003: el Digital Divide [División Digital], filtración del Internet, y los costos financieros para tener acceso al Internet.
- La sección 2 investiga nuevos asuntos para el Reporte Mundial, algunos de los cuales se enfocan específicamente en áreas de responsabilidad social. Estos asuntos incluyen legislación antiterrorista y sus efectos en la privacidad del usuario en las bibliotecas, violaciones de libertad intelectual y los efectos de corrupción; conocimiento de HIV/AIDS; y mujeres y la libertad de acceso a la información.
- Finalmente, la sección 3 actualiza los hallazgos del reporte de 2003 determinando la adopción del Manifiesto de Internet de IFLA, la Declaración de Glasgow, y códigos de ética.

**Instrucciones:**

Por favor, indique su país en el área designada abajo y conteste las siguientes preguntas. Oprima el botón de la izquierda del ratón en la ventana apropiada cada vez que se le pida escoger una alternativa. Cuando se le pida escribir una respuesta, por favor, use el área gris que se provee para texto. Cuando complete el reporte, salve el documento y envíelo como un attachment en un correo electrónico a: [sha@db.dk](mailto:sha@db.dk)

**País de la persona que responde:**

**Institución/Organización de la persona que responde:**

(La Oficina de FAIFE tratará todas las respuestas con suma confidencialidad. Si usted desea que su institución u organización permanezcan anónimos, puede dejar esta ventana de texto en blanco.)

**Número estimado de bibliotecas públicas en su país:**

(Estamos interesados en todos los puntos de las bibliotecas públicas, incluyendo las sucursales en su país.)

**Número estimado de bibliotecas de investigación en su país:**

(Las bibliotecas de investigación son las bibliotecas de instituciones educativas tales como escuelas y universidades. Nosotros entendemos que esta es una cifra difícil de estimar, pero apreciamos su respuesta.)

**Sección 1: Bibliotecas y el Internet**

**1. Digital Divide [División Digital]**

*El término "División Digital" describe la gran división entre aquellos que tienen acceso real a las tecnologías de información y comunicación y están utilizándolas efectivamente, y aquellos que no. A través del ofrecimiento de apropiadas tecnologías y adiestramiento, las bibliotecas pueden contribuir a la lucha contra la pobreza a un nivel local ofreciendo acceso a recursos de información.*

- a) En un estimado, ¿cuál por ciento de todas las bibliotecas públicas\* y todas las bibliotecas de investigación\*\* en su país ofrece acceso al Internet para los usuarios?

Bibliotecas Públicas		Bibliotecas de Investigación	
81-100%	<input type="checkbox"/>	81-100%	<input type="checkbox"/>
61-80%	<input type="checkbox"/>	61-80%	<input type="checkbox"/>
41-60%	<input type="checkbox"/>	41-60%	<input type="checkbox"/>
21-40%	<input type="checkbox"/>	21-40%	<input type="checkbox"/>
Menos de 20%	<input type="checkbox"/>	Menos de 20%	<input type="checkbox"/>

\*Todos los puntos de las bibliotecas públicas, incluyendo las sucursales.

\*\* Las bibliotecas de investigación son las bibliotecas de instituciones educativas tales como escuelas y universidades.

2. Filtración y bloqueo de la información

*Filtración y bloqueo de la información ocurre cuando se colocan programas en las computadoras individuales o en redes para prevenir a los usuarios el tener acceso a información considerada dañina en alguna manera.*

a) ¿Está la asociación de bibliotecas de su país a favor de la filtración de información en los terminales con Internet en las bibliotecas?

Si ☐

Si, hasta cierto punto (e.g. para niños) ☐

No ☐

b) ¿Está el uso de programas de filtración expandido en las bibliotecas de su país?

Si ☐

Si, hasta cierto punto (e.g. en terminales para niños) ☐

No ☐

c) Si contestó si, o si hasta cierto punto, ¿cuál es la motivación para el uso de programas para filtrar? (Por favor, marque todas las que apliquen.)

Protección de niños ☐

Seguridad nacional (e.g. terrorismo) ☐

Salvaguardar valores religiosos ☐

Salvaguardar la cultura nacional ☐

Crimen (e.g. juegos con apuestas) ☐

Salvaguardar moralidad pública ☐

Otros (por favor especifique):

3. Barreras financieras

*Las barreras financieras para tener acceso a información en el Internet incluyen pagar para utilizar computadoras conectadas al Internet, o para utilizar recursos en línea disponibles por medio de suscripciones en las bibliotecas.*

a) ¿Es gratuito para los usuarios el acceso al Internet en las computadoras de la biblioteca?

Si, en todas las bibliotecas ☐

Si, en bibliotecas públicas solamente ☐

Yes, in research libraries only ☐

No ☐

b) ¿Ha puesto el estado u otra autoridad en bibliotecas fondos adicionales disponibles para acceso al Internet en el sistema de bibliotecas en los últimos dos años?

Si ☐

No ☐

## Sección 2: Asuntos especiales

### 4. Privacidad del usuario y legislación antiterrorista

*Privacidad de información es definido como el derecho de los individuos a determinar cuándo, cómo y hasta qué extensión ellos compartirán información personal acerca de ellos mismos con otros. La privacidad del usuario está relacionada con los derechos y valores tales como libertad, libertad de expresión y libertad de asociación.*

*La privacidad del usuario es un issue ahora más que nunca en el mundo después del 9/11. Partes del Patriot Act de USA, por ejemplo, permite a las agencias de la ley acceso a los expedientes mantenidos por las bibliotecas de los Estados Unidos. Esto incluye todos los 'expedientes de negocios' recolectados por la biblioteca, tales como expedientes de préstamos de materiales impresos o audiovisuales, o expedientes del uso del Internet en las computadoras de la biblioteca.*

- a) ¿Se ha aprobado en su país legislación antiterrorista que en su opinión afecta adversamente la libertad intelectual de los usuarios de la biblioteca- tal como permitir acceso a los expedientes de los usuarios de la biblioteca a agencias de la ley?
- Si esto es cierto, por favor, describa ésta legislación y sus efectos en las bibliotecas, particularmente cualquier ejemplo específico en los cuales:
    - Los usuarios hayan expresado rechazo a utilizar los materiales de la biblioteca o sus instalaciones a causa de la legislación, o
    - Los usuarios, de hecho, han rehusado a utilizar materiales de la biblioteca o sus instalaciones basados en esta legislación
- b) Si su país tiene una legislación como la mencionada ahora o si ha sido propuesta, ¿piensa que es posible que la legislación impacte la privacidad del usuario?
- c) ¿Piensa que el mantener expedientes de los usuarios afecta la libertad de expresión del acceso individual del usuario al Internet?

Si ☐

No ☐

### 5. Violaciones de la Libertad Intelectual

*Uno de los propósitos de la serie del Reporte Mundial es el reportar incidentes y violaciones de la libertad de acceso a la información en general. Incidentes de censura tales como la prohibición de libros, o los efectos de la corrupción en el acceso a la información son particularmente interesante para FAIFE porque nos ayuda a monitorear la magnitud de la libertad de acceso a la información en la comunidad internacional de información.*

¿Ha ocurrido algún incidente en su país en los últimos dos años que ha afectado adversamente la libertad de acceso a la información o la libertad de expresión? Si ha ocurrido, por favor, describa los incidentes y los efectos que han tenido en el acceso a la información en su país

Por favor, liste los recursos de la información que puedan explicar la situación enfrentando libertad de acceso a la información en su país:

### 6. Conocimiento de HIV/AIDS

*El programa de FAIFE en la Conferencia Mundial de IFLA en 2006 – particularmente en Durban en 2007- se enfocará en bibliotecas y conocimiento de HIV/AIDS. Las bibliotecas como confiables organizaciones de la comunidad para proveer acceso a información en salud, proveen un rol de apoyo esencial en programas de educación sobre HIV/AIDS. Las bibliotecas pueden entonces jugar un papel importante en motivar el desarrollo de destrezas y actitudes que limiten la propagación y el impacto de la epidemia del HIV/AIDS. El anuncio del trabajo de las bibliotecas –en cualquier parte- para aumentar el conocimiento de HIV/AIDS es crucial si vamos a mejorar los servicios para partes de la población sufriendo de esta enfermedad.*

- a) ¿Han estado las bibliotecas de su país involucradas en algún programa para aumentar el conocimiento del HIV/AIDS?

Si ☐

Si contestó si, ¿cómo?

No ☐

- b) ¿Han hecho esfuerzos las bibliotecas de su país para proveer información acerca del HIV/AIDS a miembros de la comunidad incapaces de leer?

Si ☐

Si contestó si, por favor, describa estos esfuerzos:

No ☐



**7. Mujeres y la Libertad de Acceso a la Información**

*La información es reconocida como el fundamento de poder de la humanidad y como el principal contribuidor al crecimiento económico. La libertad de acceso a la información habilita a las personas a controlar su vida personal y a contribuir al desarrollo de la democracia. Esto manda a los bibliotecarios a comprometerse conscientemente en responsabilidad social a través de los servicios que proveen – que en algunas partes del mundo significa enfocarse específicamente en la promoción de la alfabetización de la mujer y el acceso a la información.*

- a) ¿Tienen las bibliotecas de su país programas especiales que se enfocan en la promoción de la alfabetización de la mujer?

Si ☐

Si contestó si, por favor, ofrezca detalles de alguno de los programas:

No ☐

- b) ¿Promueven las bibliotecas de su país específicamente el acceso por parte de la mujer a los siguientes tópicos: información social, economía, educación, salud y planificación familiar?

Si ☐

Si contestó si, por favor, ofrezca detalles de alguna de las actividades de promoción:

No ☐

**9. El Manifiesto de Internet de IFLA**

- a) ¿Ha adoptado su asociación de bibliotecas el Manifiesto de Internet de IFLA?

Si ☐

No ☐

- b) Si contestó si, ¿puede describir cómo las bibliotecas de su país han implementado el manifiesto en su trabajo diario en los pasados dos años?

- c) Si contestó no, ¿tiene su asociación de bibliotecas intención de adoptar el manifiesto en los próximos dos años?

Si ☐

No ☐

El Manifiesto de Internet de IFLA [IFLA Internet Manifesto], se encuentra en:  
<http://www.ifla.org/III/misc/im-e.htm>

**Sección 3: Ética y las iniciativas de IFLA****8. Ética**

- a) ¿Ha adoptado su asociación de bibliotecas algún código de ética?

Si ☐

Si contestó si, por favor, indique el año en que el código fue adoptado:

No ☐

- b) Si contestó si a la pregunta anterior, puede describir cómo las bibliotecas en su país han implementado el código en su trabajo diario en los pasados dos años?

- c) Si no hay un código, ¿tiene su asociación de bibliotecas la intención de adoptar uno en los próximos dos años?

Si ☐

No ☐

**10. La Declaración de Glasgow de IFLA**

- a) ¿Ha adoptado su asociación de bibliotecas la Declaración de Glasgow de IFLA acerca de bibliotecas, servicios de información y la libertad intelectual?

Si ☐

No ☐

- b) Si contestó si, ¿puede describir cómo las bibliotecas en su país han implementado la Declaración en su trabajo diario en los pasados dos años?

- c) Si contestó no, ¿tiene su asociación de bibliotecas intención de adoptar la Declaración en los próximos dos años?

Si ☐

No ☐

La Declaración de Glasgow de IFLA se encuentra en:  
<http://www.ifla.org/faife/policy/iflastat/gldectar.html>

# The IFLA/FAIFE World Report Series

The IFLA/FAIFE World Report Series comprises of two publications, the IFLA/FAIFE World Report - published bi-annually - and the IFLA/FAIFE Theme Report - published in alternate years. Each year's publication is launched at the annual IFLA World Library and Information Congress.

The aim of the series is to offer timely and detailed summaries of the state of intellectual freedom and libraries worldwide, and our ambition is that the series becomes the authoritative source on libraries and information services with regards to intellectual freedom from a global perspective, as well as a key guide to the issues confronting libraries in providing free and unhampered access to information for their users.

## Contact information

The IFLA/FAIFE World Report Series is available from the FAIFE Office, or IFLA Headquarters.

FAIFE contact information:

Email: [faife@ifla.org](mailto:faife@ifla.org) or [sus@db.dk](mailto:sus@db.dk)

Phone: +45 32 34 15 32

Fax: +45 32 84 02 01

IFLA Headquarters contact information:

Email: [IFLA@ifla.org](mailto:IFLA@ifla.org)

Phone: +31 70 3140884

Fax: +31 70 3834827

- Price: Price per volume: 27 EURO, incl. handling and postage.

Local price in Denmark: 20 EURO

Local price in the Netherlands: 20 EURO

## IFLA/FAIFE World Reports

- The first volume of the IFLA/FAIFE World Report Series, Libraries and Intellectual Freedom, (IFLA/FAIFE World Report 2001) was launched at the IFLA Conference in Boston 2001. Reflecting the achievements of the first four years of IFLA/FAIFE activities, the report concludes on the state of intellectual freedom relating to libraries in 46 of the world's nations.

Press release: [www.ifla.org/III/misc/pr300801.htm](http://www.ifla.org/III/misc/pr300801.htm)

- The third volume of the IFLA/FAIFE World Report Series, Intellectual Freedom in the Information Society, Libraries and the Internet (The IFLA/FAIFE World Report 2003) focuses on

libraries and the Internet based on completed questionnaires from 88 countries representing all regions of the world. It discusses the digital divide, filtering and blocking of information, user privacy, financial barriers, intellectual freedom, and codes of ethics. The analysis and conclusions of the report address differences region by region and discusses the challenge of the information society with regards to the information haves and the information have nots. Finally, the report addresses any reported incidents or violations of freedom of access to information in the individual countries represented.

Press release: [www.ifla.org/faife/report/intro.htm](http://www.ifla.org/faife/report/intro.htm)

- The fifth volume in the IFLA/FAIFE World Report Series, *Libraries, National Security, Freedom of Information Laws and Social Responsibilities* (The IFLA/FAIFE World Report 2005) includes country reports from 84 countries based on questionnaire responses and information gathered from independent sources such as human rights organisations. For the first time, the report includes articles on some specific areas of focus: national security legislation or anti-terror legislation; freedom of information laws; and social responsibilities. The report details findings on the Digital Divide in terms of Internet access in libraries, and also the filtering of Internet accessible information resources. Anti-terror legislation and its possible impact on libraries and their users is also examined, and likewise is social responsibilities with findings reported on libraries' involvement in raising awareness of the HIV/AIDS epidemic and women's literacy issues. In addition to this, the current situation regard-

ing national library associations' adoption of codes of ethics and IFLA policies is included.

### IFLA/FAIFE Theme Reports

- The second volume in the series, *The IFLA/FAIFE Summary Report: Libraries, Conflicts and the Internet*, was launched at the IFLA Conference in Glasgow in 2002. The main topics of debate are an overview of global Internet access barriers; the Internet as the information tool of the 21st century; libraries and conflicts; the Alexandria Database 'Beacon for Freedom of Expression'; and finally a discussion on how libraries can respond when intellectual freedoms are at stake.  
Press release: [www.ifla.org/V/press/faife02-pr.htm](http://www.ifla.org/V/press/faife02-pr.htm)
- The fourth volume of the IFLA/FAIFE World Report Series, *Libraries for Lifelong Literacy: Unrestricted Access to Information as a Basis for Lifelong Learning and Empowerment* (IFLA/FAIFE Theme Report 2004) presents visions of how libraries can promote literacy and lifelong learning. The literacy process has to be recognised as inclusive of all ranges of communication, and it occurs at all levels and ages of societies, whether they are predominantly oral societies or have a culture of reading as a basis for accessing information. Such an approach will create a fundamental shift and redress the denial of a right of access to information, by most librarians, for millions of people who rely on orality as their equivalent of the lifelong literacy process. The report debates the implementation of ICTs and the concerns and challenges of developing countries.  
Press release: [www.ifla.org/faife/report/FAIFE-report2004.htm](http://www.ifla.org/faife/report/FAIFE-report2004.htm)

# National Security Legislation

Whereas IFLA understands the need for appropriate national legislation consistent with international conventions to fight terrorism,

And whereas almost all countries have ratified the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, specifically including Article 19,

And whereas IFLA has drawn attention to the consequences for libraries, librarians, and library users of the USA PATRIOT Act,

And whereas national security legislation should not infringe existing civil and privacy rights,

Therefore be it resolved that IFLA deplores the introduction by a number of countries of legislation which violates fundamental human rights to privacy and unhampered access to information in the name of national security, and calls for the repeal or amendment of all such legislation in order to protect these rights,

And be it resolved that this resolution be disseminated worldwide, and specifically sent to all national library associations with a request that they respond on this matter to the FAIFE Office of IFLA.

*Proposed by: Al Kagan, University of Illinois*

*This resolution was carried, no votes against, with 17 abstentions.*

World Library and Information Congress: 69th IFLA General Conference and Council  
Access Point Library: Media - Information - Culture  
1 - 9 August 2003, Berlin, Germany  
Patron: German Federal President Johannes Rau

# Follow-up of the work of the Social Responsibilities Discussion Group

## Adopted without dissent and 31 abstentions

“The IFLA Social Responsibilities Discussion Group, after three years of work, urges IFLA’s governing Board to ensure that its recommendations for actions to IFLA’s bodies be considered for implementation during their next planning cycle. It asks the Governing Board to pass on the recommendations to the appropriate IFLA bodies by the Secreariat staff. The organisers will provide support and advice.”

### Recommendations from the IFLA Social Responsibilities Discussion Group

#### Rural Library Development

1. IFLA should develop a research program on rural library development in coordination with national library agencies. The focus should be on empowerment of local authorities to process information required by the community in comprehensible formats for diverse rural populations.

#### Literacy in Libraries

2. IFLA should urge library and information schools to promote adult basic education skills as a component of their curriculums.
3. IFLA should promote literacy training as a basic library service as advocated in the Unesco Public Library Manifesto.

#### Fees for Library Services

4. IFLA should take a strong position against fees for basic services broadly construed as advocated in the Unesco Public Library Manifesto.
5. IFLA should work with commercial information providers to establish a standard price structure for publicly supported libraries based on ability to pay.

### Human Resource Development

6. IFLA should encourage library and information science schools to adopt a socially responsible orientation, including the promotion of a strong service ethic towards all population groups.
7. IFLA should research the education and training needs of Southern countries in conjunction with relevant agencies in order to facilitate the development of appropriate information curricula.

### Electronic Information Gap

8. IFLA should promote the development of and assist in formatting local content for electronic resources.
9. IFLA should work with appropriate national and international bodies to promote policies and develop programs that equalize access to the Internet.

### Library Cooperation

10. IFLA should promote greater resource sharing between the information rich and the information poor, including links to the information superhighway for equitable, adequate and reliable communications for all.

### The Profession, Library Associations, and IFLA Structure

11. IFLA should advocate and develop strategies for the use of library associations to develop policies conducive to the development of information infrastructures for equitable, adequate and reliable communications for all.
12. IFLA should monitor and report on how various library associations are addressing information gap issues with a view to stimulating further work and activities.
13. IFLA should continue to work toward putting the concerns of Third World librarianship at the center of its program and activities.

*Revised August 18, 2002*

68th IFLA General Conference and Council  
Libraries for Life: Democracy, Diversity, Delivery  
August 18th - 24th 2002, Glasgow, Scotland

# Women's Information Needs

## Background

IFLA's Professional Priorities include  
(c) promoting literacy, reading and lifelong learning, and  
(d) promoting unrestricted access to information.

Main thrust of this resolution is on studying information needs of women. This particular issue is a direct outcome of the Satellite Meeting on "Globalisation: Empowering Women through Information. Impact on Information Availability and Use in Society on Women" organized by the Women's Issues Section in Berlin on 31 July 2003.

Women's information needs are specific: they cover social, economic, health, educational and cultural issues that range across women in all sectors of society. Women's information skills vary from basic to the most advanced.

## Resolution

As members of the Women's Issues Section we urge the members of all divisions and sections of IFLA to undertake activities to study information needs of women in the member countries in order to enhance information services to women and to the augment women's use of information.

*Berlin, Germany, 6 August 2003*

*Proposed by: Mary Biblo; Kalpana Dasgupta; Monica Ertel; Leena Siitonen; Thelma Tate; Marta Terry. (Women's Issues Section)*

*595 votes were cast in favour of this resolution, 40 were cast against. There were 163 abstentions. The resolution was carried.*

World Library and Information Congress: 69th IFLA General Conference and Council  
Access Point Library: Media - Information - Culture. 1 - 9 August 2003, Berlin, Germany  
Patron: German Federal President Johannes Rau

# The IFLA Internet Manifesto

Unhindered access to information is essential to freedom, equality, global understanding and peace. Therefore, the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) asserts that:

- Intellectual freedom is the right of every individual both to hold and express opinions and to seek and receive information; it is the basis of democracy; and it is at the core of library service.
- Freedom of access to information, regardless of medium and frontiers, is a central responsibility of the library and information profession.
- The provision of unhindered access to the Internet by libraries and information services supports communities and individuals to attain freedom, prosperity and development.
- Barriers to the flow of information should be removed, especially those that promote inequality, poverty, and despair.

## **Freedom of Access to Information, the Internet and Libraries and Information Services**

Libraries and information services are vibrant institutions that connect people with global information resources and the ideas and creative works they seek. Libraries and information services make available the richness of human expression and cultural diversity in all media.

The global Internet enables individuals and communities throughout the world, whether in the smallest and most remote villages or the largest cities, to have equality of access to information for personal development, education, stimulation, cultural enrichment, economic activity and informed participation in democracy. All can present their interests, knowledge and culture for the world to visit.

Libraries and information services provide essential gateways to the Internet. For some they offer convenience, guidance, and assistance, while for others they are the only available access points. They provide a mechanism to overcome the barriers created by differences in resources, technology, and training.

## **Principles of Freedom of Access to Information via the Internet**

Access to the Internet and all of its resources should be consistent with the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and especially Article 19:

“Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.”



The global interconnectedness of the Internet provides a medium through which this right may be enjoyed by all. Consequently, access should neither be subject to any form of ideological, political or religious censorship, nor to economic barriers.

Libraries and information services also have a responsibility to serve all of the members of their communities, regardless of age, race, nationality, religion, culture, political affiliation, physical or other disabilities, gender or sexual orientation, or any other status.

Libraries and information services should support the right of users to seek information of their choice.

Libraries and information services should respect the privacy of their users and recognize that the resources they use should remain confidential.

Libraries and information services have a responsibility to facilitate and promote public access to quality information and communication. Users should be assisted with the necessary skills and a suitable environment in which to use their chosen information sources and services freely and confidently.

In addition to the many valuable resources available on the Internet, some are incorrect, misleading and may be offensive. Librarians should provide the

information and resources for library users to learn to use the Internet and electronic information efficiently and effectively. They should proactively promote and facilitate responsible access to quality networked information for all their users, including children and young people.

In common with other core services, access to the Internet in libraries and information services should be without charge.

### Implementing the Manifesto

IFLA encourages the international community to support the development of Internet accessibility worldwide, and especially in developing countries, to thus obtain the global benefits of information for all offered by the Internet.

IFLA encourages national governments to develop a national information infrastructure which will deliver Internet access to all the nation's population.

IFLA encourages all governments to support the unhindered flow of Internet accessible information via libraries and information services and to oppose any attempts to censor or inhibit access.

IFLA urges the library community and decision makers at national and local levels to develop strategies, policies, and plans that implement the principles expressed in this Manifesto.

# The Glasgow Declaration on Libraries, Information Services and Intellectual Freedom

## The Glasgow Declaration

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### **Meeting in Glasgow on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of its formation, the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) declares that:**

IFLA proclaims the fundamental right of human beings both to access and to express information without restriction.

IFLA and its worldwide membership support, defend and promote intellectual freedom as expressed in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This intellectual freedom encompasses the wealth of human knowledge, opinion, creative thought and intellectual activity.

IFLA asserts that a commitment to intellectual freedom is a core responsibility of the library and information profession worldwide, expressed through codes of ethics and demonstrated through practice.

### **IFLA affirms that:**

- Libraries and information services provide access to information, ideas and works of imagination in

any medium and regardless of frontiers. They serve as gateways to knowledge, thought and culture, offering essential support for independent decision-making, cultural development, research and lifelong learning by both individuals and groups.

- Libraries and information services contribute to the development and maintenance of intellectual freedom and help to safeguard democratic values and universal civil rights. Consequently, they are committed to offering their clients access to relevant resources and services without restriction and to opposing any form of censorship.
- Libraries and information services shall acquire, preserve and make available the widest variety of materials, reflecting the plurality and diversity of society. The selection and availability of library materials and services shall be governed by professional considerations and not by political, moral and religious views.
- Libraries and information services shall make materials, facilities and services equally accessible to all users. There shall be no discrimination for any reason including race, national or ethnic origin, gender or sexual preference, age, disability,

- religion, or political beliefs.
- Libraries and information services shall protect each user's right to privacy and confidentiality with respect to information sought or received and resources consulted, borrowed, acquired or transmitted.

IFLA therefore calls upon libraries and information services and their staff to uphold and promote the principles of intellectual freedom and to provide uninhibited access to information.

This Declaration was prepared by IFLA/FAIFE.

Approved by the Governing Board of IFLA 27 March 2002, The Hague, Netherlands.  
Proclaimed by the Council of IFLA 19 August 2002, Glasgow, Scotland.

Latest Revision: August 30, 2002